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Arab-Israeli Talks

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chief Syrian negotiator at the talks with Israel in Washington, has said that the document presented by Israel on 14 September, "only tackles the points of importance to Israel, and ignores all other basic elements necessary to establish peace," according to Jerusalem Television. Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich said Israel is "willing to include the territorial issue on the agenda of the negotiations," which fact, he added, should go "a long way" toward satisfying Syrian expectations. Despite the fact that little progress was apparent in the talks, al-'Allaf asserted that "both parties are making serious efforts."

Iran

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Arab League's position on "the three Iranian islands" "stems from an unrealistic evaluation of the Persian Gulf crisis," Tehran radio reported. Ayatollah Khamene'i accused the United States, Britain, and "other imperialist powers" of sowing "seeds of discord" between Iran and its neighbors to "justify their illegitimate presence in the Persian Gulf region," IRNA reported. Khamene'i is reported to have said that the Abu Musa "propaganda ballyhoo" was one of the "plots of the enemies of the Islamic world" to divide Iran and its neighboring countries.

Egypt

Syrian President al-Asad, accompanied by Vice President Khaddam and Foreign Minister al-Shar', arrived for "a brief visit" and held "a closed session of talks" with President Mubarak, Cairo Radio reported. The talks are said to have focused on the Arab position at the Washington peace talks and on Arab issues.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Positions of Various Parties Reviewed

TA1509201592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Israel and Syria today continued their efforts to bridge the gaps between the position papers submitted by the two countries. During the discussions both parties argued over two fundamental aspirations. Syria hopes that Israel will declare its readiness for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, whereas Israel hopes that Syria will declare its readiness to sign a contractual peace agreement with all its attendant aspects.

In the talks with Lebanon, Israel proposed the establishment of a joint military committee within the framework of the Washington talks. With Jordan, the disagreements continue regarding the phrasing of the clauses on the agenda dealing with the borders of the 'Arava, the refugee problem, and the issue of security. As for the Palestinians, Israel gave them another two documents clarifying its positions. Our correspondents Ehud Ya'ari and Ya'ir Stern report from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Stern, at the State Department] When the limousines arrived at the State Department today, the attention of the international media was directed at the 23d Street entrance. The experienced correspondents could smell a story in the meetings between Israel and Syria. Here in Washington, 44 years of hostility and hatred have been transformed into negotiations. Both sides are showing discretion, and it is claimed that most of the details do not get out of the negotiating room. We shall try to show the tough Middle Eastern style haggling that is going on by editing the statements of the delegation heads, and we will also try to show the chances of making progress. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation, starts off by indicating his disappointment but leaves some open cracks.

[Al-'Allaf, in English]...while the other paper, presented by the Israeli delegation yesterday, only tackles the points of importance to Israel, and ignores all other basic elements necessary to establish peace, important in the equation for peace—land for peace.

[Rabinovich, in English] The negotiations and the putative agreement must reflect the interests and the wishes of both sides, and that the healthy equilibrium needs to be found between these two diverging perspectives. So we are willing to include the territorial issue on the agenda of the negotiations, and that, I think, goes a long way to meet the expectations of our Syrian interlocutors.

[Stern] I asked Dr. al-'Allaf what the parties will discuss today.

[Al-'Allaf, in English] Because Professor Rabinovich promised that his party is open for reformulation and modification. Maybe if we can safeguard or save from that paper one or two elements that can be added, if they are missing, to the Syrian basic document, which is really the essential document, then we will do it.

[Stern, addressing Rabinovich] The Syrian representative told us a few minutes ago that he was waiting for modifications or different emphases in the Israeli paper. Is there really any readiness to change the text to meet the Syrians half way?

[Rabinovich] This of course must be reciprocal. We are waiting for many alterations and changes in the Syrian paper. I think it would be surprising were it otherwise. Their paper is defined as a draft, which invites changes, and so is our document. I do not make any secret of the fact that if we are satisfied with regard to the issues that interest us, then we may be able to consider making changes in the text, after receiving the authorization of the political echelon. That is definitely a message that we have already delivered to the Syrians.

[Stern] Therefore, despite the cautious statements and the public expressions of disappointment, Israel and Syria are negotiating. There is the matter of renewed terminology, phrasing, different papers and approaches, and a readiness to show flexibility. In short, however, Syria and Israel are holding negotiations. Compared to the progress with Syria, there is some disappointment and even paralysis in the negotiations with Jordan, the Palestinians, and Lebanon. In order to explain why there is progress on one end and inertia on the other tracks, here is our Arab affairs correspondent, Ehud Ya'ari.

[Ya'ari, in Washington studio] The paralysis is less profound than it appears at first glance. Israel took a small step toward the Palestinians in the negotiations that are scheduled to renew here in two hours. This move comprises an agreement to discuss the use of land and water in the territories during the transitional period, a clarification that the Palestinian judicial system in the framework of the autonomy authority would be independent, and a new phrasing according to which the Palestinian autonomy council would be accountable [previous word in English] to the residents, or in other words, would not draw its authority solely from the agreement with Israel. Jerusalem also opened the door for a future confederation with Jordan for the first time.

The Palestinian delegation expressed quiet satisfaction with these developments, but still insists on investing the autonomy with a territorial dimension, and demands an Israeli declaration that the principles of Security Council Resolution 242 also apply to the transitional period and that, therefore, no contradictory steps will be taken regarding Jerusalem, settlements, or land expropriations. The Palestinians also reject the written Israeli assertion, submitted yesterday, that not only external but also internal security would be under Israel's sole responsibility. Regarding the agenda, both parties share closer positions, and it is expected that a proposal to formulate a general platform for the talks will be floated at some time. The parties could then begin discussing the details of the autonomy structure. The Palestinians say that if

Israel presents the Camp David framework as its basis, then this will be a welcome development. In other words, now it is the Palestinians who want to go back to the Camp David accords they once rejected. The Americans suggested taking the opposite way to the Palestinians. They told the Palestinians that the contentious issues can be tackled by discussing details at this stage. For example, what jurisdiction will the Palestinian traffic police have? Thus, the question of the geographical aspect of autonomy will also be dealt with. In summary, although there is a lot of treading of water going on, no one is sinking.

[Stern] Meanwhile, another day of talks with the Syrians is over. Upon leaving the meeting, Dr. al-'Allaf said that the fact that the discussions lasted three hours is proof that both parties are making serious efforts. Professor Rabinovich said that both sides are comparing papers and making efforts to bridge the gaps. Not every day will be easy sailing, he said. [end recording]

Israel Ready To Put Territorial Issue on Agenda

TA1509165592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Israeli and Syrian representatives are meeting again in Washington today to continue the peace negotiations. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation, said upon arriving at the State Department that he would ask the Israeli representatives questions about important components of peace that were not mentioned in the document submitted to the Syrians by Israel yesterday.

Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation, said before the meeting that Israel would be willing to place the territorial issue on the agenda. We know, Rabinovich said, that the territorial issue is important for the Syrians, and we realize that in order for the negotiations to succeed they must reflect the desires of both parties. Rabinovich added that if the Syrians moderated some of their demands, it would be possible to formulate a joint document.

Rabinovich Rejects 'Land for Peace' Formula

TA1609064192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with Syria, by Arye Golan in Washington on 15 September—recorded; words in slantlines said in English]

[Text] [Rabinovich] The current situation is one of having two papers on the negotiating table, and there is both a desire and an effort to bridge the gaps and differences between the two papers. These are real differences, and therefore, the argument or discussion about the questions of formulation and substance reflected in these papers is an argument that requires hard work. It is not a hard argument in the sense of being strong or unpleasant and so on and so forth, but it involves matter-of-fact problems—and this is why I defined it as hard work, not as a difficult meeting.

[Golan] What currently is the main dispute in the deliberations with Syria?

[Rabinovich] The dispute revolves around the linkage between the issues of territory and peace. This is not a new dispute. This problem has featured in the negotiations from their outset, and lies in the very definition of this peace process which began in Madrid. The Syrians would very much like to hear clear, detailed statements from us, statements which I would define as far-reaching, on the territorial issue. Naturally, the Syrians cannot hear everything they want to hear; negotiations do not mean that one of the sides returns home with all of its desires met.

[Golan] Do you expect a complete, contractual peace with open borders and embassies, in exchange for returning part of the Golan Heights to the Syrians?

[Rabinovich] I would not like to conduct the negotiations with the Syrians over the radio. I would say the following: The /land for peace/ formula is not acceptable to us. We arrived in Madrid on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and letters of invitation to Madrid which do not include /the land for peace/ political formula or slogan. Moreover, in his speech in Madrid, President Bush used the term /territorial compromise/. So, the moment somebody wants to bring to the negotiation table formulas such as /land for peace/, this is countered by /territorial compromise/ formulas. This is the kind of thing we discuss then.

[Golan] In view of what you heard from the Syrians in the most recent meetings, do you believe that at the end of this round of talks it will be possible to reach a joint paper, which is the goal you set at the beginning of the round?

[Rabinovich] I did not, incidentally, say that I believe it would be possible to reach a joint paper with them. I said that I hope it would be possible to do so. I think that what we submitted to the Syrians serves as a sufficient basis to make this possible. It will not be easy. I do not want to say that I stopped hoping it would be possible to reach a joint paper, but it is clear to me that this will not be easy.

[Golan] Thank you.

[Rabinovich] Thank you.

Rabinovich Reports No Syrian 'Creativity' at Session

TA1509181892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Report from Washington by Arye Gus]

[Excerpt] The meeting between the Israeli and Syrian delegations ended at the State Department in Washington a few minutes ago. The Israeli-Syrian track is still

the focus of international media attention. Professor Rabinovich said it had been an exhausting day. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation, stepped outside to the waiting news correspondents and told them that no progress had been made today. I have not much to report, he said, adding that the Syrians still were not satisfied.

On the other hand, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation, sounded slightly more encouraged today. An effort had been made to bridge the gaps, he asserted. Rabinovich explained that this was not an easy task as there were two widely differing documents that have to be compared.

During the meeting both sides expressed opinions and issued warnings. Prof. Rabinovich said that points of common ground had been found, but not on all issues. The Syrians did not demonstrate any creativity today, the head of the Israeli delegation said, but rather determinedly stuck to their positions. The Syrians would like us to move farther on the territorial issue, Rabinovich said, but we came to defend Israel's interests, to anchor them in an agreement, and to attain peace. If, in the course of this the Syrian delegation feels dissatisfied, this is not our main consideration.

A similar picture can be drawn regarding the meeting with the Palestinians, which is scheduled to take place this afternoon. The Palestinian delegates, including its unofficial spokesmen and the PLO officials hovering around, keep on talking about how Security Council Resolution 242 should be the source of authority for the interim accords. This demand is opposed by Israel because Resolution 242 deals with a permanent arrangement, which only will be discussed after several years. The Palestinians, on the other hand, strongly claim that any decision made in the interim accords will have an effect on the permanent arrangement—settlements, for example. At any rate, the Palestinian delegation is expected to submit two documents today. The first will state their demand to apply Resolution 242 to the interim accords, while the second will address the gestures made by the Israeli Government. The Palestinians claim that these have been insufficient. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi Says Israeli Response Unsatisfactory

LD1509184192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, leader of the Palestinian delegation at the peace negotiations on the Middle East, which resumed yesterday in Washington, has said that the Israeli response to the Palestinian proposals will be studied carefully, but we can confirm as of now that it is unsatisfactory.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi also demanded an immediate and comprehensive halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. We can no longer accept the continuation of the settlements or whatever endangers the possibility of reaching an understanding over a final arrangement for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said.

Al-Majali, Other Delegates Assess Latest Session

JN1609062892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The Arab and Israeli teams held another session of talks last night to continue their discussion of the proposed issues.

At the end of yesterday's Jordanian-Israeli session, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations, said that the Jordanian side submitted to the Israelis a suitable proposal on one of the agenda issues. This proposal deals with the use of weapons of mass destruction in the region. He hoped the Israeli side would respond positively to this proposal in today's session after consultations with its government. He added that the discussion also tackled other issues, including the refugee issue. It was clear that the Israeli side has some ideas in this regard, and we will respond to them today, he said.

Dr. al-Majali described yesterday's meeting as a reactivation of the negotiations, which still enjoy an effective and active dynamism. The progress of these negotiations, he added, depends on the responses we will receive today or tomorrow.

Responding to a question on refugees, Dr. al-Majali said the Palestinians have their own way of talking about this issue, noting that more refugees are living in Jordan than in any other country. More than a quarter of Jordan's population is made up of refugees, which confirms the need to discuss this issue, he said. He added: We in Jordan are suffering more than others from the problem of refugees and deportees.

In a related development, yesterday's Syrian-Israeli meetings ended without making any progress on the paper submitted by the Israeli side to the Syrians and which comprises three parts. The first part includes the Israeli concept of peace; the second includes a list of formulas and principles to achieve peace; and the third includes the agenda and its clauses. The Israeli paper does not mention withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has expressed dissatisfaction with last night's talks. In a brief statement to reporters after the talks, he said: We spent about three hours of work and discussion, but we did not achieve any progress.

The head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Syrian delegation said after the talks: We are neither displeased

noe disappointed. He said, however, that the negotiations continued at a slower pace than the previous days. He added: We are at a stage at which we are trying to compare the texts of both the Israeli and Syrian documents. There are points of difference, but we cannot make great progress every day.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, and some members of the Palestinian delegation met with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs. The talks dealt with developments in the negotiations on the Palestinian track. The meeting took place before the resumption of talks on this track. The Palestinians demanded a clear and decisive Israeli pledge to withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On the Lebanese-Israeli track, an Israeli official said that the Israeli delegation to the negotiations has proposed to the Lebanese delegation establishment of a joint military committee to discuss common military issues. The Israeli official said that Israel proposes that this committee meet within the framework of our meetings and not separately. Until yesterday evening, there was no Lebanese comment on this proposal. Lebanon has repeatedly demanded the revival of the 1949 truce committee, but Israel rejects that.

Israel Agrees To Discuss Disarmament With Jordan

TA1609072592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] In the negotiations with Jordan, Israel has agreed to include a discussion on regional disarmament regarding ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. This was disclosed by Palestinian and Jordanian sources. The Jordanians expressed reserved satisfaction about the Israeli consent, which is reported from Washington by Eldad Beck:

[Begin recording] [Beck] Jordanian and Palestinian sources told IDF Radio that in the draft agenda for the negotiations which Israel submitted to the Jordanians on Monday, Israel agrees to the Jordanian demand that the agenda include a reference to the dismantling of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. In its draft, under the clause dealing with overall regional security, Israel suggests that the two countries express their commitment to discuss Middle East security, including demilitarized zones and reducing the quantity of weapons of mass destruction. The Israelis do not intend to discuss arms control processes with the Jordanians, but to reach, on the bilateral track, the expression of a mutual commitment that will contribute to the multilateral talks on disarmament in the region.

The Jordanians expressed their initial satisfaction with the Israeli consent to include nonconventional disarmament on the agenda of bilateral negotiations, since thus far Israel had refused to do so, claiming that the correct framework for this is the multilateral talks. The Jordanians requested and are still requesting that a distinction be drawn between the bilateral and multilateral tracks in everything concerning disarmament, explaining that the nonconventional arms Israel possesses pose a direct threat to their security. Therefore, the Jordanians are not fully satisfied with the version of the Israeli draft and have submitted a version of their own. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation said:

[Al-Majali, in English] I wouldn't say it is a big thing. It is a different way of putting the language. We felt it's not satisfying our needs and it does not satisfy our sensitivity. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT carries a related report, quoting Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as saying: "Today we continued the businesslike talks in the framework of the full delegation as well as with professionals in several spheres. The plenary talks included different versions for issues on the agenda, including regional security and bilateral implications of regional security. Naturally, since these issues are complex, we will present them to the government and return to discuss them with our Jordanian counterparts."]

Shammas Rejects Joint Military Committee Proposal

NC1609070092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Like previous meetings, the second meeting of the Arab-Israeli talks during the sixth round saw Lebanese rejection of Israeli proposals, Syrian disappointment, and no progress on the Jordanian and Palestinian fronts. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese delegation came out of the talks with the Israelis yesterday, rejecting an Israeli proposal to form a bilateral military committee.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, the head of the Lebanese delegation, criticized the proposal, saying: There is an understanding between the two sides that each negotiating team can come forward during the negotiations with any ideas it believes to be useful. Such ideas can be submitted verbally or in writing. The Israelis opted to present us with a paper prepared before they returned here; it was ready when they returned after consultations in Israel. They opted, and this is their right, to present it to us according to a previous agreement between the two sides that each can submit a stand verbally or in writing. The Israelis chose to present this stand in writing.

Shammas added: What does this stand propose? It proposes setting up a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee within the framework of these negotiations and inside the negotiating hall. They want to form a joint military committee. A quick study of this proposal shows that it is not in line with what we have agreed; it will be a subcommittee that meets in the negotiating hall, but reports to the two negotiating sides. This means that it will be a subcommittee and therefore not subject to the agreed understandings. While it will fall within the

context of negotiations, it will not be in the two delegations' negotiating hall. [as heard] This is the first criterion of our assessment of the Israeli paper, and we will reply to it at the proper time.

Shammas went on to say: We believe that security arrangements cannot be discussed in a vacuum. We will judge such a discussion within the context of our principal stand and objective. Any discussion of security arrangements should aim, among other things, to effect withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the occupied Lebanese territories. If this is the intention, we will deal with it. We have received this paper and said that we do so without obligation. We will brief the Israeli side on our stand and assessment in light of our study of the paper.

Palestinian Views 'Progress,' Coordination

NC1609100592 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, conducted by Muhammad al-Aswad in Cairo, within the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, during the recess in the current round of talks, the Palestinian delegation met President Abu-'Ammar and the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. What is the significance of this meeting and does it mean that the issue of Palestinian representation at the negotiations has been resolved and is no longer a procedural impediment to which Israel might resort to obstruct the talks?

['Urayqat] Yes, there was a delegation led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi in Tunis. Everyone knows that the Palestinian leadership instructs the delegation. The world knows this and news agencies have reported it. There is nothing new in this.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, the negotiations began in the serious way the Arab parties sought and there have been ideas, proposals, and responses. Has the progress on the Palestinian-Israeli course met Palestinian expectations?

['Urayqat] Since the first day of the bilateral talks in Madrid, the Arab delegations have been serious and have sincerely sought a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. The Arab delegations have been forwarding ideas based on the rules and references of the peace process as laid down by the letter of invitation, President Bush's words, Security Council resolutions, and international legitimacy.

Arab efforts are continuing. During the current round, the Syrian delegation forwarded a somewhat advanced paper to the Israeli delegation. The Palestinian delegation also tried to resolve the differences and move from the deadlock to serious negotiations through [words indistinct], or declaration of principles. But all these attempts have achieved no result. The Syrian delegation has received nothing on withdrawal and the Palestinian delegation has received nothing on acceptance of Resolution 242 in the transitional or final phases.

Naturally, we do not expect quick or immediate results from the negotiations, but the talks do have their points of reference. All I can say now is that Israel should adhere to these if it wants the peace process to have a serious beginning.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, if there is quick progress in other areas, especially on the Syrian-Israeli channel, as now seems likely—at least observers expect it—how will this reflect on your negotiations with the Israeli side?

['Urayqat] First, I would like to say, in my capacity as the one responsible for coordinating with the Arab delegations, that reports have been exaggerated, particularly in Israeli and U.S. newspapers, on developments in the Syrian-Israeli talks.

We would be pleased about any possible progress in any course of negotiations, because there is an Arab agreement among us that a final signing of any accord should be done in agreement with the other parties. Any progress in negotiations—Israel's agreement to withdraw from the Syrian Golan—is great news for us. Israel's agreement to withdraw from occupied Jordanian territory and occupied south Lebanon will be great news for us.

Progress in the talks with the other Arab parties is something we hope for and will be happy about. The same applies to the talks with the Palestinians [words indistinct]. We are now talking about a transitional phase and will start to talk about a final phase two years after the beginning of the transitional stage. The unique Palestinian-Israeli course requires us to encourage progress in talks with the other Arab parties.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, Arab coordination reached its highest level before and during the negotiations. Are there currently any efforts to maintain and consolidate this coordination so that it will achieve its goals and the unity of the Arab fold during the talks?

['Urayqat] I believe that four-way coordination—and even five-way coordination, because Egypt participated in the Damascus meetings in July and August—is of a great standard.

As for coordination here in Washington, the committee of the four delegations meets daily to exchange information and the heads of the delegations meet twice a week. There is, however, a pressing need for comprehensive Arab coordination. You know that the peace process is made up of two parts, bilateral and multilateral, and that more than 15 Arab countries are taking part in both the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Arab coordination is required to lay down the basis of Arab wants from these negotiations, because these talks will determine the [word indistinct] map of the Middle East. There must be comprehensive Arab coordination on a joint Arab concept of the next stage.

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, let us move to the essence of your talks with the Israeli delegation. Has it presented answers to your proposals earlier in this round?

['Urayqat] Yes. The Israeli delegation forwarded us a paper containing some, but not all, of the answers to our questions. We are now examining this paper. From a preliminary reading of the paper, I can tell you that it was disappointing. Indeed, we were expecting them to return after 10 days of meetings with their leadership with new ideas that would enable the peace process to proceed soundly. The paper lacked many of the answers needed for the peace process. It could be just a beginning. We do not yet know what they will propose in their (final) paper during this round. We believe it is too early to judge the situation.

[Al-Aswad] We thank you very much and we wish you success.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

Palestinians Demand Control Over Water Resources

TA1509211792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] At the opening of the discussions of the water committee, within the framework of the multilateral talks in Washington, the Palestinians reiterated their demand to include Palestinian representatives from outside the territories in all the working groups, and to permit the PLO to take part as their legitimate representative. Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians also sought to bring the United Nations into the talks, since it is, as she put it, the source of authority for the peace process. In the talks, the Palestinians demanded control over water resources and over all decisions regarding their use. They also complained about Israeli actions that have led to a situation in which the Palestinians suffer from a severe water shortage. The Palestinians called for the dispatch of a research team to the area that would report to the committee. This was reported by our correspondent in Washington Arye Gus.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Discusses Peace Talks, Israeli Tactics

NC1309204092 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinians are committed to a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy's resolutions. He warned that regional peace would be impossible if the Palestinian cause is bypassed.

'Arafat made these remarks in an interview with MBC conducted in Tunis by colleague Mahir Shalabi, who asked him for the Palestinian view of the transitional stage, preceding a comprehensive solution.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] The transitional arrangements are temporary and set for a specific time period according to the letter of invitation [to the Madrid Arab-Israeli peace conference] and the letter of assurances. These arrangements should lead to the point where the Palestinian people will determine their fate; full independence and then a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation according to our [Palestine] National Council resolution and in line with the voluntary and free option of the two fraternal peoples.

[Shalabi] Yitzhaq Rabin said recently he offered the occupied Gaza Strip to the Egyptians but the Egyptians turned him down. What is your stand on this statement?

['Arafat] It is untrue. I asked if any such statement had been received in Egypt and was told unequivocally that none had. It is not true. They must know that we say the Palestinian land... [changes thought] Bush's initiative stipulates a withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem. Anyone who does not like this can kick against the rocks.

[Shalabi] There is growing talk these days about a relaxation in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Do you have any comment?

['Arafat] I have told you that Israel's aim is to normalize inter-Arab relations at the expense of Palestinian rights. This is Israel's goal. However, we have an agreement among the cordon states and in the seven-member committee that represents those states, the Gulf states, and the Arab Maghreb Union that there will be no solution on one front at the expense of another.

[Shalabi] Do you wish to say anything to the Israelis following Yitzhaq Rabin's election victory and his retreat from his campaign promises to achieve peace?

['Arafat] I tell him that the Israeli citizen has voted against Shamir's policy, war, and expansion. He [Rabin] should realize that sidestepping the Palestinian people's national political rights is [word indistinct]. We are not demanding the impossible, we are asking that international legitimacy be implemented. [words indistinct] neither stability nor peace and security. There is no security without Palestinian security, nor is there stability without Palestinian stability. There can be no regional security, stability, or peace by sidestepping the Palestinian people's national, political, legitimate rights. We are not asking for the impossible but for international legitimacy. [end recording]

Further on Interview

NC1509050592 London MBC Television in Arabic 1832 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by MBC correspondent Mahir Shalabi, in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Shalabi] We are pleased at MBC to meet with you, your excellency Palestinian president 'Arafat. Can

you kindly begin by discussing the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which began in Madrid 10 months ago. How far have these negotiations gone and what is your assessment of them?

['Arafat] First of all we have to realize that Shamir—and we said before that he was procrastinating but no one would listen to us—has personally admitted that he was planning to drag on the negotiations for 10 years. Then came Rabin. From the beginning, I said that Rabin was a beautified version of Shamir. He introduced the iron-fist policy and the policy of breaking bones. When he took power, he ordered the special units and the units in disguise—those masked men dressed in Arab garb—to commit their crimes. Then he sent a delegation [to the peace talks] made up of the same old faces, such as Rubinstein, to waste time. Our delegation embarrassed him by submitting our draft plan [mashru'], which depends on....[changes thought] I will read it to you so I can be specific and so that you will not say I am speaking off the top of my head. You are the only one to whom I open my agenda. We said that the framework of understanding depends on Resolution 242. Why should Resolution 242 apply to the Syrian front when he [Rabin] does not want it to apply to the Palestinian front? Is there a double standard? As I said a few days ago in my monthly message to the intifadah and to the Arab nation, Rabin seeks normalization with the Arabs at the expense of the Palestinian question and at the expense of Jerusalem. Can anybody in the Arab world accept this? Could any Palestinian, Muslim, or Christian accept this? This is the new conspiracy that (he is concocting). [passage omitted]

The Fourth Geneva Agreement....[changes thought] These are occupied territories, are not they? They are. So why does he not understand that Resolution 242 applies to the Palestinians? He still says they are Judaea and Samaria, only he uses different words than Shamir. Let him admit that they are occupied territories. He does not want to admit they are occupied because that would mean that Resolution 242 would apply to them, which means he would have to withdraw forces from all the territories occupied in 1967, be they Arab or Palestinian. This resolution was followed by Resolutions 476, 478, 605, 607, 608, 681, 726, which require Israel to withdraw its forces from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem. The resolutions used to refer to East Jerusalem, but the last time they simply said Jerusalem. This runs counter to Shamir's [as heard] policy, because he still considers them to be Judaea and Samaria but will not say so. He does not want Resolution 242 to apply to them. We have to understand where this conspiracy is heading. This Israeli conspiracy, I am sorry to say, is the result of the U.S. Administration's preoccupation [with the upcoming elections] and its need of the Israeli and Jewish vote. This is why it is covering up Rabin and his crimes against our people, our children, and sacred places.

Our holy places. Where are the Arabs? Where are the Muslims? Where are the Christians? This is a picture of the Mount of Olives ['Arafat refers to a picture on the wall]. There was a Greek Orthodox church here. Fifteen days after Rabin assumed office, he issued an order to bulldoze the church. They violate Christian holy places as well as Muslim ones.

Then we go on to the boundaries of Palestinian authority. What are its geographic boundaries? Of course, they should be outlined according to Resolution 242. Then there is the source of authority. What is the source of authority? The Palestinian people are the source of authority. Therefore, legislative elections, not local elections, should be held. On top of all these problems is Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. He says it is the eternal capital of Israel. I say to him that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. In time we will see who is correct. Storms do not shake mountains. They are not the first nor will they be the last occupiers of Jerusalem. History has swept many others away, and Jerusalem remained Arab and Islamic, caring for all the three heavenly religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Muslims believe in the three religions. I am the president of the Palestinian Muslims, the Palestinian Christians, and the Palestinian Jews, who are the Samaritans—you know them; they are Palestinians; they are the Natore Karta [ultra-orthodox Jewish sect]. Natore Karta are Palestinians. I am their president.

We also should look at the Israeli military withdrawal under UN protection and supervision. Likewise, the elections must be held under UN protection and supervision. Then there is the issue of the settlements, the natural resources, the economy, security, the immediate return of the displaced, a solution to the problem of the prisoners, the crossing points, and the authority for solving disputes. Who should have the authority to solve disputes? The philosophy of Rabin and Shamir says this is your land O Israel. This is found on their official currency. You, Mahir, are from there, and you see it everyday—night and day—you see the map of Greater Israel. This is the map of greater Israel ['Arafat refers to a map of Greater Israel] which includes all Palestine, all of Jordan, all of Lebanon, half of Syria, two-thirds of Iraq, one-third of Saudi Arabia up to Madinah and Khaybar, and half of the Sinai. I did not make this map up; they drew it. What is the name of this magazine? It is JEWISH JOURNAL. Here Mahir, read it. Here it says JEWISH JOURNAL. It is an American Jewish magazine, dated 19 February 1989. It writes about this dream. I did not invent this. This is their currency, and this is their explanation and map. This map is printed in a magazine distributed by Israel's EL AL airline. What does it show? The Temple of Solomon. Here, look. It has the Temple of Solomon instead of this Holy Mosque—instead of al-'Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Mosque. Wake up O Arabs, wake up O Muslims. God be my witness, I have conveyed the message.

Then there is the issue of compensation. Don't you pay 930 dinars in addition to the regular taxes? Doesn't it

cost you 120 dinars to cross the Jordan bridge? You pay 120 dinars just to cross the bridge. Does this happen anywhere else in the world?

We must know what is going on. Rabin's decision is to normalize [relations] with the Arabs at the expense of Palestinian rights, so he uttered nice words to secure the $10 billion. Unfortunately, the Arab stand is weak.

[Shalabi] Mr. president, you participated in the recent Jakarta Nonaligned summit and held meetings with several leaders. How do you assess the summit and meetings?

['Arafat] First, the Nonaligned summit has changed from being Nonaligned between the two former superpowers.... [as heard] [changes thought] The third war era has ended with its cold and hot wars [as heard]. Today the Nonaligned countries have become a bloc for Third World countries—those of the South—to confront the greed and hegemony of the North.

It is no coincidence that China, Brazil, and others have become observer members in this movement. Two big countries, China and Brazil, have become observers. Every Asian country except Japan [sentence incomplete as heard] The Philippines has become a member, thus all Asian and African countries and most Latin American countries have become an inseparable whole. This movement is regarded as a grouping of the South to confront the North's greed.

What is most important is President Soeharto's stand in his inaugural address, when he devoted most of his speech to Palestine and Jerusalem. A large portion of the Jakarta statement was about the Palestinian cause, people, and rights and the Palestinian options that these countries and friends support. It also contained a paragraph on Jerusalem.

[Shalabi] Mr. President, let us return to the peace talks and the effect of the U.S. element on the peace process in general. In your view, will the peace process be affected if George Bush fails in the election?

['Arafat] My plans and policies do not depend on a Bush or a Clinton victory. This is an internal U.S. affair. We have encountered Carter, Nixon, Reagan, Truman, Ford, and Roosevelt. We have encountered them all—from Truman, who passed the partition resolution [on Palestine], to Bush, who gave the $10 billion. These are internal democratic affairs in which we do not interfere at all.

[passage omitted]

[Shalabi] What do you say to the Palestinian people as the intifadah enters its 58th month?

['Arafat] When the intifadah broke out, Rabin was in Washington. Asked about the intifadah, he wondered: What intifadah? I will crush it in two days once I return. I answered him as you recall. I told him: You have two days, two weeks, two months, even two years ahead of you. Time will tell.

This intifadah will continue, wave upon wave. Do you see the fighting in Gaza, Rafah, and Khan Yunus, which has been going on for five consecutive days? The fighting is continuing. The area has become a battle zone. This is the hungry Gaza. I tell all Arabs: It is a sin to let Gaza starve. This starving Gaza creates a miracle every day, just as Janin, Nabulus, Hebron, and Jerusalem are doing. These people who are standing fast in the face of occupation are creating miracles with their hunger, pain, blood, and sweat. I still say that we have a date with victory and a new dawn. The dawn and the victory are coming. Whether Rabin likes it or not, the Palestinian flag will be hoisted above Jerusalem's walls, minarets, and churches. [passage omitted]

[Shalabi] Your excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, we thank you for this interview with MBC and hope to meet you in other interviews.

['Arafat] God willing. Thank you.

U.S. Said Losing Credibility by Arming Israel

LD1509213692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, on the eve of the resumption of the multilateral talks on disarmament today in Moscow, it was announced in Israel that an American-Israeli accord had been reached to set up five joint committees to assess all aspects of strategic cooperation between the two sides. It was also announced that these committees' main objective is to guarantee the Israeli Army's military superiority in the region, and also that the United States intends supplying Israel with more F-15 war planes and to store military equipment for two American divisions, one of them an armored division, in Israel.

Much of what this announcement contains, in fact, reveals the contradiction between the desired objectives of the multilateral talks on disarmament in the region and the practical stances being adopted by the United States and Israel. For, while talking continues, within the framework of the peace talks—of which the United States is the main patron—on an effort to achieve a Middle East that is clean of weapons of mass destruction and on exercising control over armament, and while talking continues regarding bringing an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and settling its causes, it is surprising, and indeed disagreeable, that the United States and Israel should reaffirm that they are striving to maintain the Israeli Army's military superiority in the region. It is similarly disagreeable that the United States should supply Israel with more advanced weapons and enrich its war arsenal by storing more advanced military equipment. If the endeavor to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, and if the

American and the Israeli announcements on disarmament are also serious—noting that Israel is demanding control over conventional weapons possessed by the Arab states—what then does the guarantee of the Israeli Army's military superiority mean, against whom is it directed, and for what aims, especially as the conversation today—and after the disappearance of the old military balance formulas and the end of the cold war—is no longer about a Soviet threat.

The announcement of these accords on the eve of the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington and the multilateral disarmament talks in Moscow casts doubt over the nature of the type of disarmament control adopted by the United States and Israel. It also unquestionably confirms that the United States and Israel are still gambling on military power to achieve their version of security and stability in this region, instead of staking their bets on making a real, just, and comprehensive peace as the only guarantee of security and stability.

Accordingly, in addition to its dangerous contents, the timing of the announcement does not contribute to propelling peace efforts forward [passage indistinct]. The announcement is new proof of how far the United States favors Israel, which does not coincide with either its role in the peace process or the efforts being made to achieve peace, or with former American announcements and declarations relating to weapons control in the Middle East.

With regard to peace, the endeavor to reach it, weapons control and disarmament is in complete contradiction with going ahead with arming one side, or rather the main side, in the conflict with the most advanced weapons. It undermines the credibility and the seriousness of the search for a just and comprehensive peace, a peace free from the language of force and closer to international legitimacy.

'Arafat Rejects Palestinian Police Force Proposal

NC1509123192 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
14 Sep 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by Muhammad Dabah, AL-QUDS special correspondent in Washington]

[Excerpt] The PLO has denied that it has anything to do with recent proposals that a Palestinian police force be formed in the occupied territories to supervise security and public order.

Informed Palestinian sources told AL-QUDS that during his meeting with members of the Palestinian negotiating team in Tunis last week, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat strongly attacked the idea of forming a Palestinian police force, describing it as unsound and saying that it could lead to inter-Palestinian fighting inside the occupied territories. Instead, 'Arafat asked the delegation to demand that a third party form this force, not Israelis or Palestinians. The sources said that 'Arafat proposed the bulk of the police force be formed by the United Nations or a third state to provide protection for the Palestinians and especially to prevent attacks by Jewish settlers on the Palestinians. [In a similar report on the issue, Jerusalem Israel Radio in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 14 September says that 'Arafat proposed that a "third party or an international force" be used to supervise "the elections in the territories and the transfer of power to the Palestinians."]

In its proposal submitted to the Israelis on 3 March concerning the arrangements for the transfer of power, the Palestinian delegation proposed that the Palestinian interim self-government authority form a strong police force to supervise security and public order.

These sources say that 'Arafat was speaking in the presence of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the guidance committee for the negotiating team. Several reports have mentioned that al-Husayni is behind the idea of forming a Palestinian police force of several thousand men. This idea has been met with broad opposition and resentment in the occupied territories and by the Palestinian organizations and Palestinians abroad.

The sources attributed 'Arafat's attack on al-Husayni's call for the formation of the police force to the strong opposition that the ideas have met. [passage omitted]

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Stage Peace Talks Protest

NC1509075892 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
8 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] Under the motto "Confrontation of Plots To Liquidate The Palestinian Cause," the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, the Islamic Jihad Movement, and the Struggling Islamic Movement held a public rally in Burj al-Barajinah camp [in Beirut's southern suburb; no date given]. Addressing the rally on behalf of the Struggling Islamic Movement, Shaykh 'Abdallah Hallaq denounced the peace talks and declared: "The Palestinians in Lebanon refuse to be settled in Lebanon, to be granted Lebanese citizenship, to be compensated, or to be moved elsewhere."

Speaking on behalf of the Islamic Jihad Movement, Shaykh Sayyid Barakah called for "unity of ranks to confront the plot of liquidation." He called on negotiators to: "Withdraw from these humiliating talks and to return to the trench of struggle and resistance." He also called for "the mobilization of all the Islamic nation's resources to confront the world imperialist front led by the United States, which covets Arab oil and which is committed to the Zionist entity's security and qualitative superiority."

Abu Muhammad Mustafa spoke on behalf of Hamas, urging "Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories] to act to foil plans for liquidation by every available means, including the escalation of the intifadah and the resistance and the organization of marches,

demonstrations, and sit-ins." He declared: "The Palestinian people reject all resolutions issued by the conferences of liquidation." He called for "continuing the resistance and struggle until victory."

Egypt

Syrian President Arrives for Talks With Mubarak

NC1609092492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived at al-Nuzhah Airport in Alexandria this morning on a brief visit for talks with President Husni Mubarak. They will discuss developments in the Arab position in light of the Doha Damascus Declaration foreign ministers meeting, the outcome of the Arab League Ministerial Council meetings, and the peace talks that opened in Washington two days ago.

Leading the reception party for the Syrian president were President Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Defense Minister Muhammad Husayn Tantawi; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for military production; and Alexandria Governor Isma'il al-Jawsaqi.

Arab Position, Peace Talks Discussed

NC1609104792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpt] A closed session of talks has begun between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. The talks are dealing with the Arab position and the Washington peace talks and other issues concerning the Arab world.

The Syrian president arrived at Alexandria's al-Nuzhah Airport this morning, accompanied by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

Israel Said To Propose Joint Military Academy

NC1509204892 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Diplomatic sources told AL-SHA'B that Yitzhaq Rabin's Zionist government proposed the creation of a joint military academic center to be based in Cairo.

The sources said the Israeli objective behind this proposal is to infiltrate Egyptian military circles. The plan, which is expected to be rejected by Cairo, comprises the following points:

1. The center, they claim, would enable the Egyptian and Israeli military to receive intensive military studies in certain sophisticated military industrialization fields, as well as in the field of training on modern military equipment;

2. Israel would supply the center with Israeli military experts, who would supervise the center on technical matters;

3. Egypt would provide the center with some of its military products and other sophisticated military equipment. Egypt and Israel would work together to conclude deals with friendly countries on supplying these countries with some sophisticated military equipment;

4. The joint Egyptian-Israeli center would represent the nucleus in any joint military or industrialization programs; and

5. the center's graduates would complete their military studies through another training program in Israel conducted by Israeli military experts.

It should be recalled that Israel often has endeavored to establish joint military cooperation with Egypt. Washington has used the loans and economic assistance to Egypt as a weapon to pressure Egypt into accepting joint industrial cooperation with Israel. But all those attempts so far have been rejected.

Sudanese Rebel Representative Visiting Cairo

NC1509155892 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo revealed that a representative of the rebel movement in southern Sudan has carried out suspicious contacts with officials in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia aiming to overthrow al-Bashir's regime and replace it with the movement.

The sources added that movement representative Tahir Bayyur, chairman of the so-called Islamic Council for New Sudan, is currently conducting talks with officials from the Awqaf Ministry and al-Azhar University. He is also trying to obtain support from Arab capitals, including Cairo, Algiers, and Tunis, to bring the popular front to power and replace al-Bashir's Salvation Front.

The diplomatic sources affirmed to AL-SHA'B that Bayyur is trying to make the rebel movement appear as if it does not conflict with Islam and the Muslims. Bayyur also held talks with officials representing the Sudanese opposition in Cairo on toppling the regime in Sudan.

Mubarak Explains Reasons for Economic Reform

NC1509182792

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 12 September publishes on pages 3 and 5 the "first installment of an exhaustive and frank" interview with President Husni Mubarak by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi'.

In the 5,000-word interview, the president explains the reasons for his concern with economic reform, saying that "the economy was suffering from chronic ailments" that could have led to "a total collapse" if he had not decided to develop and implement the reform program "at the right time."

Giving an account of the situation when he came to office, Mubarak said the "relative price stability in the 1960-1980 period was at the expense of the present and future generations." All proposals to raise the prices in order to cover the cost increase were rejected and the state had to cover the difference between the high cost and reduced prices through borrowing, he said.

To explain the problem in real figures, the president pointed out that the public debt reached $46 billion in 1991, making each family's share of the debt 14,200 Egyptian pounds. He further explained that in 1991, the state had to pay $4 billion—13.2 million Egyptian pounds—annually to repay the debts and their interest. Mubarak said these deferred debts were one of the major factors that led to the devaluation of the Egyptian pound and the increase in U.S. dollar rates, and eventually to the continuous price hikes. He added that public companies had to borrow to cover cost increases. He remarked that these companies' debts amounted to 62 billion Egyptian pounds in June 1991.

Asked whether he believes Egypt has passed safely through a difficult period, the president said the future is promising, adding: "I am cautiously optimistic. I can say that we have overcome most of the difficulties, that we are on the right course, that we are able to forge ahead, and that we can perform miracles if we work together."

Explaining the reasons for his "optimism," Mubarak points out that the inflation rate fell from 25-30 percent in the past three years to "11 percent last year and 9.5 percent during the last three months." He said the second reason is the stability of the Egyptian pound against foreign currencies. He says that it is "no secret" that the Central Bank bought $4.5 billion from the market this year, the president said, adding: "If the Central Bank had not done that, dollar rates would have fallen sharply." The third reason is the increase in tourism and commodity exports, Mubarak said, pointing out that the increase in the number of incoming tourists by 866,000 shows that Egypt is safe and secure.

Asked whether security incidents involving tourists harmed tourism, Mubarak said it is clear from security reports that Egypt's guests "were not the targets" of these incidents. He remarked, however, that any "bad conduct"—even at the individual level—can adversely affect public revenue.

Asked why he is "cautious" in his optimism, Mubarak explained that economic reform seeks to control price increases, provide the necessary commodities and services, enhance public access to these commodities and services through increasing per capita income, and create jobs for graduates. Realizing these goals is closely linked to population and people's ability to upgrade production in terms of quality and quantity, he said. When population increases without an equal increase in production, he said, prices increase and unemployment rates rise. He noted that the Egyptian population "reached 58.3 million in June," and that this "dreadful" increase makes him cautious in his optimism.

Responding to Nafi's remark on the "tardiness in improving public sector performance", Mubarak says that reform in this field is "slow by nature, time-consuming, requires in-depth studies and varied experience, as well as preparedness in the money market to invest in companies."

Mubarak stressed that every minister should reconsider the tasks of his ministry. He also emphasized the need for further coordination among the different ministries to reflect the changes resulting from the separation of public investments from ministries. The president asserted that a government reshuffle is not under consideration. He remarked, however, that this "does not mean that ministers will remain in their posts forever, because some may lose the ability to give for some reason or another. To those, we say thank you and look for more experienced replacements."

Asked about "rumors" that thousands of workers will be laid off, the president asserted that the opponents of reform are behind these rumors. He explained that the rationalization of the working force can be done through "absorbing the surplus manpower in expansion projects and seeking new fields of activity."

The president remarked that transforming the people into producers requires enormous funds that no developing state can afford. He asserted that Egypt "will not make the same mistake twice by borrowing" in order to provide the funds necessary for investments.

President Mubarak pointed out that 7,148 new industrial projects have started operation. He added, however, that the value added to production by these projects still falls short of financing investments in education, training, health, land reclamation, and other new projects that can absorb the increase in manpower. He cites UN statistics that say that "a worker in Egypt adds $2,750 annually [to production] against $5,957 in Turkey, $23,738 in Cyprus, $39,925 in Spain, and $36,662 in Britain."

Mubarak outlined the policies to be adopted in the coming stage. He said: "Our target will be to continue to liberate the economy; to develop and further liberate the public investments authority; to deal seriously with the enormous population increase; to work out a comprehensive program to supplement the economic reform program in order to increase production, both in terms of quality and quantity, and to enhance people's abilities and skills; and to take care of low-income groups during the reform period."

Mubarak stressed the need for cohesion and solidarity among all members of Egyptian society to maintain stability, overcome hatred, and develop gratitude among the low-income groups.

The president asserted that he follows up on the activity of the Social Fund, which "so far has accumulated 1.2 billion Egyptian pounds from friendly and Arab states," to find out how many people have benefited from it.

Touching on unemployment, the president said that this is among his major concerns. He remarked, however, that the figures published in the press are "exaggerated and cannot be trusted in determining the size of the problem."

Asked whether the duties of governors will be enhanced, Mubarak remarked that deep-rooted development begins in the governorates and outside Cairo. Governors should play more effective and positive roles in development through "working out well-studied and viable programs to assist and increase small projects, help youth to launch new ones, assist family planning programs, achieve a concrete reduction in the population increase, and improve and upgrade health and educational services," he said.

The president noted that he will visit a number of states next year to learn about their successful experiences in economic reform and development.

Dayrut Area Village Officials Suspended

NC1609105792 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Husayn al-Shayib and Kamal Jabr]

[Text] The Asyut security chief suspended the mayors and heads of the villages of Jurf Sirhan, al-Matawi'ah, and al-'Awamir, affiliated with the city of Dayrut, and referred them to military courts for failing to perform their duties.

Acting on instructions from Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, the security chief collected all the licensed weapons—over 70 pieces—from the residents of the three villages, because their owners failed to assist security personnel during the acts of violence and extremism that occurred in their villages.

A campaign launched by Asyut security forces in conjunction with public security officers has led to the arrest of four extremists in Jurf Sirhan.

Recall that an extremist hurled an explosive device at the Jurf Sirhan police station last week, killing one policemen and wounding another. Reports from security personnel indicate that the village is sheltering some fugitive extremists.

Sudan

UN Official Comments on Relief Visit

EA1509151092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0923 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Sep (SUNA)—Assistant of U.N. secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and relief coordinator, Jan Eliasson, hailed Sudan's cooperation with the U.N. in the operations of [Operation] Lifeline Sudan [OLS] and relieving the war-affected people. Addressing a supper banquet carried out Sunday [13 September] on the occasion of his visit, Dr Eliasson expressed his pleasure by the Sudan's cooperation on the operations of OLS.

The U.N. official referred to the role that could be played by Sudan in the Horn of Africa area to solve the problems of natural disasters and internal disputes. "Sudan has effectively participated during the conference of human rights which was held recently in Addis Ababa," he said, adding that Sudan could present a new additional role in solving not only the regional problems but also could support the role of the U.N. The U.N. was seeking to achieve equal roles in maintaining the member states' sovereignty and human rights, he said.

The Sudanese officials briefed Eliasson during the banquet on the situations in Sudan and efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the country.

Meets With al-Bashir

NC1609085892 Cairo MENA in English 0645 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, Sept. 16 (MENA)—Jan Eliasson, visiting UN assistant secretary general, left here this morning for Juba, on a one-day visit to south Sudan.

He is accompanied during his visit to Juba by a media delegation including correspondents of Arab and international newspapers and agencies.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent here, the UN official said that the international organisation abides by its neutral policy in dealing with the Sudanese Government and the People's Liberation Movement in south Sudan.

He added that he will meet during his visit to Kenya during the coming few days with the Movement's leader and officials to agree on starting the implementation of a project to transport relief materials to Juba and Waw.

Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir accused the rebel movement of hindering the arrival of the relief materials to South Sudan by continuously attacking Juba airport.

During his meeting last night with the UN official, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed his government's readiness to contribute to transport of relief material with the international voluntary organizations.

Nuba Population Urged To Join SPLA

EA1509110592 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Sep 92

[From the "East to West" program]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] (?People) of south Kurdufan, in the People's Armed Forces, the Islamic Front has launched a retaliatory attack on your sons in the Nuba mountains and it has opened markets for the sale of Nuba servants and slaves in north Kurdufan.

I address a special appeal to you to join the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and join the ranks of your sons to defend the mountains and their people and honor because the junta in Khartoum has decided to eradicate the Nuba totally. Therefore, it is our duty and it is the duty of any person from the Nuba mountains to defend (?his sons) and defend himself and all his property. We always appeal to all the soldiers to join the SPLM and the SPLA. Today, it is our duty to support your sons in the Nuba mountains whether militarily, politically, or materially. Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki said:

[Begin recording] [passage indistinct] We, in west Sudan, generally, and in the Nuba mountains area, generally, have been and still are loyal soldiers to this country. We have died for it and for the unity of its soil from the Turkish and Mahdist eras to the advent of independence and since independence. In the southern war, we have been fighting our brothers here because of our belief in the unity of Sudan and its land, whereas others were saying: A slave to kill a slave. After the southern war [passage indistinct] his income is insufficient to support himself or his sons.

When there are no wars, we are servants; during wars, we are fighters. We live in cartons and others live in buildings. [passage indistinct] Citizens, our eyes are open now. If in the past we adopted peaceful methods to demand our right to a decent living, then experience has proved that this method is of no use. [passage indistinct] (?Justice) is not established except by the blood of martyrs. If coup attempts have failed in the past and which aimed at [words indistinct] then there is nothing left for us but one method, namely, the armed struggle. The world only listens to a strong voice and force.

Accordingly, the Nuba mountains [word indistinct] decided on the armed struggle and joining the SPLM and the SPLA as one of its groups. The Nuba Mountains Front appeals to its members and citizens in the backward areas generally, and the mountains area, particularly, to join the SPLM and the SPLA which is fighting for a unified Sudan and for balanced development in Sudan, and for a new Sudan in which every Sudanese may feel that he is a citizen with his (?nationality) and his dignity, whatever his religion or color or sex or culture.

I appeal to the brothers in the regular forces, in particular, to join the SPLA. [passage indistinct] Are you fighting for a salary that is not enough to support your family or what are you fighting for? Is it for the thieves who possess millions abroad or for the owners of buildings in Khartoum and the like? Against whom are you fighting while we are fighting for your naked relatives? Against whom are you fighting while we are fighting for your bare- footed relatives? Against whom are you fighting while we are fighting for your (?weak) relatives? Against whom are you fighting while we are fighting for your hungry relatives and the future of your sons against loss?

A [word indistinct] view of matters (?and) their negative aspects, then the SPLM, with its young, cultured and conscious leadership has become aware of those negative aspects and has (?transcended) them. They have broken the psychological and historical barriers that distinguished between the sons of the one homeland. The movement aims to create one Sudan for all Sudanese without discrimination based on religion, sex, or culture.

Long live the unity of the Sudanese people. Long live the SPLA. Long live the SPLM. And peace be upon you. Yusuf Kuwah on behalf of the Nuba Mountains' Front. [end recording]

Western Sahara

Polisario Astonished by Remarks of UN Official

LD1309080992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] expressed surprise and astonishment at the statements made yesterday [11 September] in Dakar by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, special representative of the UN secretary general for Western Sahara, in which he attempted to justify Moroccan provocations by organizing a constitutional referendum and legislative elections in Western Sahara.

A communique issued by the Saharan Information Ministry pointed out that Mr. Yaqub Khan, who had talks with the Senegalese president, stated that the Moroccan elections and referendum are not connected with the UN referendum which will be organized on the specified date when suitable conditions allow for that.

According to Omar Mansour, member of the Polisario National Secretariat and head of the Europe and North American department [at the Foreign Ministry], this stand conflicts with the peace plan which requires the two sides to refrain from carrying out any action which could hinder the peace process.

Sends Message to UN

LD1309110392 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Algiers 13 Sep (APS)—A Saharan Information Ministry statement reports that Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [SADR] and secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario], last Friday sent a message to Jose Ayala Lasso, president of the UN Security Council, in which he

strongly protested "over the serious Moroccan conspiracy to change the legal status of Western Sahara."

The statement, which was received by APS yesterday, adds that Mr. Abdelaziz also pointed out that "the latest exercise is a link in the chain of aggressions, which included 178 confirmed violations of the cease-fire, the random transfer of tens of thousands of Moroccan citizens to Saharan territory, and the harassment of members of the UN mission entrusted with organizing the referendum in Western Sahara." He asserts that all this "points out Morocco's determination to torpedo and hinder the peace plan adopted by the UN Security Council."

The Polisario secretary general also states that "despite the call for both sides to avoid provocation, Morocco has continued its challenge to the United Nations through its determination to implement its plans to annex Western Sahara, the latest of which is the referendum on the constitution and legislative elections."

He adds: Such a "challenge" is taking place in order to thwart the efforts being exerted by the special envoy of the UN secretary general and to make fruitless the attempts now underway to find a joint solution to the problem of the age of candidates.

Mr. Abdelaziz points out that "the decision to reorganize Moroccan territory through the annexation of Western Sahara is a de facto review of the status of Western Sahara, which would prejudice the outcome of the referendum.

"Is it necessary to point out that the farce of the referendum on the constitution was organized without any respect for basic democratic rights and norms, as pressure was brought to bear on the civilian population groups?" he asks. He goes on to say that, "This stability might end the hopes pinned on the organization of the referendum to the Saharan people's right to just and free self-determination, and undoubtedly constitutes a severe blow to the UN mission entrusted with the task of organizing the referendum in Western Sahara."

In conclusion, the Saharan president addresses an urgent appeal to the president of the UN Security Council, calling on him to do all he can to ensure the speedy adoption by the Security Council of the necessary and adequate measures that will ensure the cessation of the Moroccan Government's provocative activities. He also requests him "to distribute the contents of this appeal among the UN Security Council member countries."

UN Urged To Stop Draining of Southern Marshes

LD1609075992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The opponents of the Iraqi regime have asked the United Nations to react to the steps taken by Saddam Husayn to drain and dry up the southern marshlands of that country, which act as refuge for defenseless Muslims.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali emphasizing that as a consequence of the measures taken by the Iraqi regime, dozens of households are facing relocation and death and are leaving their homes in large numbers in search of more secure places to live. In his letter, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim calls on the United Nations and its affiliated bodies to do everything they can to take action as soon as possible and put a stop to this plan.

Continued Shelling Reported in South

NC1509180192 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Opposition sources have affirmed that the regime's troops continue to shell civilian areas in southern Iraq. The same sources added that the regime's troops are using large-caliber artillery to bombard densely populated areas in the marshlands of al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Basrah. The sources added that the sounds of artillery bombardment and the resulting explosions could be heard [word indistinct] at the Iraqi-Iranian border.

Government Troops Attack Bridge in Kurdish Area

NC1409200292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] spokesman has said that a bridge located in the Chamchamal District has come under heavy shelling by the forces of tyrant Saddam Husayn. The spokesman said in press statements published today that the regime's forces have failed to seize control of the bridge during clashes the day before yesterday, which left 20 regime soldiers and four Kurdish fighters dead.

Barzani Presides Over PUK-KDP Joint Meeting

JN1409084992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Mas'ud Barzani chaired a joint committee meeting of the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] at his headquarters today, 13 September. The aim of the meeting was to continue discussion of ways to unify the revolution's organs. Several practical steps within this framework were taken. Peshmerga officials and the party organizations of the two allied parties in the Duhuk and Irbil Governorates attended part of the meeting.

The meeting today was fraternal and seriously tackled the topics on the agenda.

Delivers Address

NC1509181292 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Members of the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] held a meeting attended by KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani at the PUK Political Bureau Headquarters at 1000 today. Officials of the two parties' organizational branches and armies attended the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, PUK Political Bureau member Dr. Kamal Fu'ad welcomed the conferees. This was followed by an address by KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani. He noted the significant steps which he and [PUK leader] brother Jalal Talabani managed to achieve during their recent travel to the United States, Britain, France, and other countries.

In his address, Mas'ud Barzani reiterated that the Kurdish issue has become an international political issue and has made great strides. He added that federation for Kurdistan is an accepted formula to achieving the legitimate rights of the Kurdish people. He also stressed the need to promote the fraternal ties between the Kurdish people and for providing support to the parliament and government of Kurdistan.

At the end of the meeting, the conferees discussed the practical steps needed to safeguard the unity of the Kurdistan front, maintain stability and security in Kurdistan, and unify the ranks of peshmerga forces at this sensitive historic stage.

The meeting was held in a peaceful and cordial atmosphere.

Paper on Allies' Failed 'Moment of Climax'

JN1609104492 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Keep Your Eyes Fixed on Iraq"]

[Text] Those who believed that the enforcement of a no-fly zone in southern Iraq was the first step in a large-scale scheme aimed to partition Iraq, a step that would be followed by others to revive the chapter of treachery and treason, were not mistaken. However, these people, while closely following developments, continued to wonder anxiously and impatiently when the "moment of climax" would come; that is, the climax of the conspiracy.

Days and weeks passed, and the world learned of numerous events pertaining to Iraq and to areas surrounding Iraq. However, only a few people realized that the "moment of climax" had come and gone unnoticed, as if it were stillborn; whereas the allies had expected this climax to elicit dramatic events that would rock the region and the world at large.

When did the "moment of climax" come? According to the scheme, the infiltration of traitors and criminals from Iran into southern Iraq and their being joined by failed individuals would spark the climax. Also, according to the scheme, these individuals would attack service installations and party and state offices to create the required colossal chaos that could have been used to justify a large operation; namely, military intervention by the 30-state alliance.

Once these two steps were accomplished, the scheme stipulated, the partitioning of Iraq would become an established fact. The north, thanks to the efforts of the United States, France, and Britain, has become a hotbed of crime and anarchy. Had the no-fly zone scheme enforced south of the 32d parallel succeeded, southern Iraq would also have become a fertile ground for anarchy, sabotage, and indiscriminate killing. Thus, the media would have diverted its attention from Yugoslavia to Iraq to pave the way for a U.S. military invasion, assisted by Iran and gangs of mobs and criminals.

But, what happened to make the moment of climax pass quietly and leave the scene of events without achieving its basic objective, without which there could be no partitioning of Iraq? Iraqis have seen television footage pertaining to these developments. Similarly, the world has learned through radio stations and news agencies of news reports which were not treated as "serious developments." The reference here is to the apprehension of infiltrators from Iran who attacked civilian installations, "power stations," as well as party and state offices.

Besides, Iraqis have seen an elite group of their brother party strugglers and tribesmen being received and honored with a reception accorded to them by the leader president for their special role in routing the foreign infiltrators from Iran who attempted to carry out acts of sabotage and spread anarchy once again.

The world also listened to "Voice of America" quoting statements by senior U.S. officials claiming that "there is a rebellion in southern Iraq." Thus, those waiting for the climax to come remained confused as to the significance of these developments. They asked themselves: If these developments are the prelude to the moment of the climax, where is the climax which is supposed to crown these developments?

Afterward, those who were following events noticed that the ugly Voice of America radio station died down and that the "Voice of Iran" became infected with scabies. Indeed, the only thing that remained loud and clear was the voice of the beloved leader, while repeating the phrase "Bravo, O people of al-Qurnah; bravo, O people of al-Basrah"—a smile of confidence on his noble face.

What happened? And where did the moment of climax go? Gentlemen; O Iraq lovers, O Iraq haters: Right now, even infants know that the subversive moment of climax was absorbed, contained, and destroyed once and for all, thanks to the resurgence of the proud masses of southern Iraq, including their strugglers, their mujahid tribes, and their security forces.

Yes, the moment of climax vanished after it had been broken by Iraqi heroic feats in the south; after Iraqis had proved in this new glorious chapter of the Mother of Battles that the Iraqi individual, regardless of whether he is from southern Iraq, northern Iraq, or central Iraq, remains unchanged; and also after they had shown that the zealous patriotic sentiments of the Bani Malik tribesmen in southern Iraq are no different from those of the Barzanjiyah tribesmen in northern Iraq. All are builders of Iraq and forgers of its unity. By the same token, they are all loyal soldiers to Saddam Husayn, Iraq's leader.

The plan of the victorious leader in the Mother of Battles rested on preventing and thwarting the scheme of the 30-state aggression states to achieve their essential objective; namely, disintegrating the Iraqi mind. In the same vein, the elimination of the new scheme was made possible when the enemies were denied "an excuse" for intervention. They had deemed the possible prevalence of turmoil and large-scale military operations a good excuse. But, Iraqi tribes in the south, along with party organizations which renewed their vigor, benefiting from the chapter of treachery and treason, rose to prevent any turmoil or large-scale subversive actions in the first place.

The new feat scored by the Iraqi people and the Iraqi leader before the entire world has highlighted the Iraqi mind and showed it to be cleverer and wiser than the mind of the 30-state alliance. The evidence we advance to corroborate this is that the Iraqi mind has aborted the moment of climax and turned it into "a moment" for entombing the partition scheme for good after the general popular consensus in southern Iraq rose to firmly and unhesitatingly stand behind Saddam Husayn, the man who brought them pride and who upholds sublime principles.

And now, we would like to address those who are still following events and waiting for the moment of climax to arrive, saying: Move your eyes from Iraq now and fix them on Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia. If you are expecting a U.S. moment of climax, Iraq, with its history, the unity of its people, and the genius of its leader, is an immense shock absorber that is capable of rendering impossible the success of any U.S. penetration attempt under all circumstances. Similarly, if you want to see the disintegration of the U.S. hegemony on the world, keep your eyes fixed on Iraq.

Syria Accused of Decision 'To Sell' Golan

JN1509185592 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: It seems that the Syrian regime—which is good at playing double games and which is professional in preserving power in accordance with the saying, the end justifies the means—has found that trading in principles and loose slogans which were raised by this and other regimes for years is no more profitable now that all cards are on the table. The Syrian regime shelved its slogans and made an acrobatic move when it recognized Israel's security requirements and accepted only part of the Golan in exchange for giving it everything—recognition, peace, and then, economic and political cooperation.

Through this, the Syrian regime wants to satisfy its American godfather in the new position, particularly since a Syrian-Zionist peace means a great deal for Bush who seeks any propagandistic event to attract the sympathy of the voters who flee when he approaches. The price of all this is known and calculated beginning with agreeing on the continuation of the Damascus regime and [word indistinct] ending with instructing the oil rulers to supply it with petrodollars. The Damascus rulers, among others, consider this money sacred and above all principles, values, history, and future.

Therefore, the Syrian regime decided—without any doubt—to sell the land. Despite the fact that all this downfall is neither strange nor abnormal to the Syrian regime which has been exposed for a long time, we would like to ask what can this regime do in the future to create new slogans to deceive the Syrians now that the age of the slogans of strategic parity, the sacred battle, and the liberation of the land has ended. We know that this mission is difficult, but the acrobatic moves, no matter how good they are, will be of no avail.

Writer Urges Freedom of Press, Democracy

JN1509152592 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 12 Sep 92 p 2

[Mazhar 'Arif's article: "The Constitution and Pluralism." The article is preceded by the following note: "This article reflects the author's opinion and BABIL publishes it in line with the principles of its democratic action and a belief in the freedom of the press which are drawn from the leader's statement: 'Write without any restrictions or fear that the state may be pleased or displeased by what you write.'"]

[Text] We need a political process on the level of the rapid and accelerating reconstruction process which has been going on in our country since the cease-fire in the Iraqi-American war. This process can be realized by submitting the Constitution to a plebiscite and by issuing the law on the freedom of the press, although we had hoped that this law would also be submitted to the people before it takes its final shape.

The party pluralism law, which was approved a few months ago, is still difficult to be applied by those wishing to set up national parties in view of the fact that some provisions still exist in the penal code which prohibit former Ba'thists who left the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for any reason from joining new parties. Article 200 of that law is as old as the law itself, which was issued in 1969, and stipulates a death penalty. The number of founding members stated by the law—150—has never been matched during the monarchy in Iraq or any other era, or, for that matter, by any Arab or Third World state adopting the multiparty system.

I personally cannot understand why the Constitution is presented to a plebiscite while the parties law and the law on freedom of the press are not, taking into account that the draft constitution was discussed by the National Assembly just like the pluralism law and the press law. Discussions by the National Assembly and inside the party and popular organizations are, therefore, not sufficient.

It has been decided to present the Constitution to a plebiscite. So why has the matter been confined to the National Assembly in the case of the party pluralism and freedom of press laws, which were thought to be an idealistic case different from the more realistic and correct case of the Constitution.

Leader Saddam Husayn says "Democracy is a source of strength for the individual and society." The laws on land reform, nationalization, autonomy, the National Front, and not forcing citizens to join or retain his or her membership in professional or popular organizations—as well as a series of other laws and directives issued by the official and nonofficial agencies, reaching up to the new Constitution and the acknowledgment of pluralism—all this confirms that the principle of democracy is entrenched in the mind and heart of struggler Saddam Husayn. Despite this, we still see a group of writers, journalists, and intellectuals who confront any individual or writer speaking about democracy, and accuse him of all sorts of things. What these people are doing harms the state and their own reputation and spreads dangerous confusion and chaos among the people. The people will then be split between the state's general trend to entrench democracy and what these writers say in their articles or closed circles about democracy and the people who, in their articles and writings, support the state's general attitude toward democracy. Those attending these closed circles were told to wait and see the dark future, which this or that person advocating democracy in their writings are expected to meet. The justification used all the time by this group of intellectual saboteurs and deceivers is that the time is inappropriate for the emergence of new parties or for starting new newspapers in accordance with the law.

I agree with what Abu-Hatim [pseudonym of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn] wrote a few days ago in BABIL about democracy and economic reconstruction. The best answer to the foreign aggressors and to the domestic rightist and reactionary activities is to expand democracy; achieve a balance in economic, developmental, and social construction in all governorates in the country; and put an end to the historic whispers by the Iraqis that all the people are working only for the sake of the capital, Baghdad, and that what has been offered to the people in the north was more and better than what has been offered to the people in the central or southern regions, and so forth.

It is not important to move at a time of danger; but, rather, we ought to expect the danger in advance on the level of the entire homeland and to act on the basis of the constant threat facing Iraq in view of its national and pan-Arab policy. Projects and services should be distributed to the governorates according to their population now and in the future, and the gap between citizens should be bridged as much as possible. Extensive surveys of the resources of each governorate should be made; the powers of governors, municipalities, and the other services departments in each governorate should be expanded; and so forth.

Democracy is not only a political process; it is also an economic one. Speeding up the democratic process by removing the obstacles hindering the establishment of new parties—by annulling the obstacles in the penal code and other laws preventing their establishment, giving licenses to newspapers, and presenting the Constitution to a plebiscite constitute, now, some of the most significant weapons at the hands of the people and the state in the face of the aggression and conspiracies.

Some may say there are serious difficulties preventing the issuance of licenses for new newspapers in view of the shortage of paper and other materials needed for printing them. I believe people will find a way to print their newspapers inside the country and put up with the very high costs in the market, or, depending on the kind of license they are given, print them abroad and send them to the country. Some may also say the abnormal situation in the northern part of the homeland means the Constitution cannot be presented for a plebiscite there. I believe our Kurdish citizens can cast their votes in Makhmur, or Salah al-Din, or Mosul, or in other places. A great and major plan by the state cannot be suspended because of a situation that will not last; a situation which life itself rejects.

Defense Minister Meets With al-Qadisiyah Governor

JN1509110192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has met with al-Qadisiyah Governor Ahmad 'Abdallah Salih and the comrade secretary and members of the al-Qadisiyah branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the meeting, he reviewed the tasks the citizens should perform at the current stage to confront the enemies and to foil their conspiracies. He also noted the party's effective role in bolstering the people's determination so that citizens will continue to defend the homeland and to make sacrifices for safeguarding its sovereignty.

Fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid called for further cooperation among the government and party organs in the best interest of the citizens to enable them to contribute to defending the homeland and reinforcing the current new reconstruction campaign in our struggler country.

Tribesmen Pledge Allegiance to Saddam in Rallies

JN1309191892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Iraqi tribes have continued to strongly condemn and denounce the hostile and lowly U.S.-British-French decision to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and the unity of its well-knit and immortal people.

In mammoth rallies held in Baghdad, and districts and subdistricts in various governorates, tribes renewed their pledges of allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn. They vowed to make immense sacrifices in defense of Iraq's independence, security, and the unity of its people.

The al-Janabiyyin tribe strongly condemned the new colonialist-Zionist scheme and its evil objectives, which seek to weaken the Iraqi people and undermine their free and independent will.

In a mammoth rally held in the al-Latifiyah subdistrict of al-Mahmudiyah district, in the presence of comrade Mizhir Matni 'Awwad, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the Baghdad Organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the tribesmen renewed the pledge of allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn. They vowed to stand as an impregnable mountain in the face of all forms of conspiracy and aggression, and to valiantly confront whoever entertains the idea of undermining the unity of the great Iraqi people, their security, and their independence.

As for the al-Jubur tribes in al-Najaf Governorate, they condemned the lowly colonialist-Zionist plan, which is being implemented by criminal Bush, Major, and Mitterrand against the Iraqi people to undermine their unity and dignity.

In a rally held in the capital city of al-Manadhirah district, attended by al-Najaf Governor Karim Hasan Rida, tribesmen pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn to make enormous sacrifices to vindicate Iraq's pride and dignity.

More Bombs Defused in North; Others Sought

JN1409103392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0849 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—The competent technical organs in the Civil Defense Directorate in the Ninawa Governorate in northern Iraq have defused 45 unexploded U.S.-made spherical bombs dropped by the aircraft of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on residential areas in the Khalid Bin-al-Walid complex in Sinjar district. In a statement to INA, the director of the Civil Defense in the governorate said that the competent teams in the directorate continued the search for unexploded bombs throughout the governorate in order to defuse them.

Mauritania Sends Condolences on Envoy's Death

JN1609095392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of condolences from his brother Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on the death of Ambassador to Mauritania Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani.

The cable reads: With deep sadness and grief I learned about the death of the late Ambassador Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani, who died while serving his country.

On this painful occasion, I extend to you and to the deceased's family our heartfelt condolences. May God have mercy on his soul, have Paradise be his final abode, and grant you and his family patience and comfort. To God we belong, and to Him we return.

Finance Minister Asks Help To Unfreeze Assets

JN1309160892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn has urged economic and finance ministers in fraternal and friendly countries to show solidarity with the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the malicious conspiracies being led by the United States, Britain, and France to undermine Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In letters sent to economic and finance ministers in Arab and friendly states, the finance minister affirmed the need to make effective moves on the international scene to lift the unfair blockade imposed on Iraqi assets—which are frozen in international banks—to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people, who have suffered immense material losses as a result of the treacherous 30-state aggression and the chapter of treason and treachery.

The minister asserted that Iraq is making exceptional endeavors to secure subsidized food supplies to all sectors of the population, using the ration card system, which has been commended by all world organizations and bodies.

The letters indicated that the neocolonialist U.S.-British-French scheme against Iraq, under the guise of protecting the Iraqi people in the south, is designed to undermine Iraq's sovereignty, tear apart its territorial integrity, and encroach on its national unity in violation of all international laws and norms, including the UN Charter.

Health Ministry Official Appeals for Medical Aid

JN1509194892 Baghdad INA in English 1855 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 15, INA—The Iraqi Health Ministry has appealed to the U.N. organizations, UNICEF and the World Health Organization to work for putting an end to the sufferings of the Iraqi people as a result to the acute shortage in vaccines and antibiotics of some diseases.

The health undersecretary told INA that the ministry had addressed an international call for securing a million vaccine for combating polio and other vaccines for combating other children diseases.

He stressed that the international organizations had not fully responded to the appeal and that the medical help extended to Iraq did not exceed 10 percent of the total needs of Iraq.

The undersecretary pointed out that the international health organizations are well aware of Iraq's annual needs before enforcing the embargo on the Iraqi people.

Party, PLO Officials Review Arab Conference

JN1409104792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0748 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, has stressed that the brutal conspiratorial schemes carried out by America, Britain, and France against Iraq to encroach on its sovereignty and national unity are not aimed only against Iraq, but also against the future of the Arab nation and the independent states in the world. This came at a meeting with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani today. 'Abd-al-Ghafur added that the conspiracy against Iraq is also a conspiracy against the rights of the Palestinian people and their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO. He affirmed the support of Iraq and its leader for the Palestinian people's intifadah.

Hurani voiced the solidarity of the leadership and people of Palestine with their brothers in Iraq in their confrontation with the links of the conspiracy aimed at encroaching on Iraq's sovereignty and national unity and continuing the unjust blockade.

The two sides reviewed the ongoing preparations to convene the extraordinary conference of the Arab popular forces in Baghdad on 20 October. They stressed the

importance of this conference in intensifying Arab popular struggle and expanding their activities to support lofty Iraq, the Palestinian intifadah, and the Arab nation's causes.

Al-Anbari Goes to UNESCO, Replaced by Hamdun

JN1509133992 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sept. 15, INA—Mr Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations presented yesterday his letters of credence to U.N. Secretary-General Dr Butrus-Ghali.

Mr. Hamdun, ambassador at large, has succeeded to this post Dr 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's former permanent representative to the United Nations.

INA correspondent in New York said Dr al-Anabari has moved to Paris to assume his post as Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO).

Finance Ministry To Implement Saddam's Plan

JN1509100192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The Finance Ministry has taken practical steps to translate the contents of leader President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iraqi people on 12 August into concrete daily action.

During a meeting with the press, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn has said that in its current budget, the ministry concentrated on good planning, economy in spending, and finding new financial resources to serve the national economy. He added that this year's budget achieved a host of objectives to ensure the continuation of economic and civilized awakening to implement the ministries' plans to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the treacherous Zionist-state aggression, and by the subsequent acts of sabotage in the chapter of treason and treachery.

The finance minister explained that the ministry has adopted the policy of rationalizing spending, arranging expenditures in accordance with the priorities that are commensurate with the requirements of the current stage, and of improving and developing the level of services in terms of quality and quantity, particularly those of concern to citizens.

The minister stressed that the ministry attached great importance to upgrading the standard of workers' performance, and to electing qualified management teams so as to mobilize material and human resources to implement their financial plans and programs during this year and in the years to come.

Minister of Awqaf Leaves for Sudan 13 Sep

JN1309155492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Sep (INA)—'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, left for Sudan today to participate in the meetings of the board of trustees of the International Islamic Call Organization, scheduled to convene on Wednesday [16 September]. The meetings will last three days. [passage omitted]

'Large-Scale' Operation To Salvage Ships Planned

JN1409131092 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 14, INA—Minister of Transport and Communication Mr. 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Ma'ini said that a large-scale salvage operation of 52 sunken ships in the southern Iraqi ports of Khawr al-Zubayr, 'Abdullah and Umm Qasr will start shortly.

The minister said that those ships, oil tankers and dredgers sank during the raids and attacks by the American Atlantic planes of aggression on Iraq.

Rabin Comments on Syria at Berlin News Conference

LD1609103392 Hamburg DPA in German 0937 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Berlin (DPA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has made the willingness of his government to negotiate on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan Heights conditional on Syria presenting a concrete peace concept. Territorial questions were negotiable, said Rabin at an international press conference in Berlin today. However, Israel would not enter into any negotiations before the Syrian side had made it absolutely clear that peace meant "a peace treaty," Rabin emphasized.

Syria had recently demanded a commitment from Israel at the beginning of the sixth round of bilateral Middle East negotiations in Washington to completely withdraw from the Golan Heights before Syria would be prepared to enter into detailed peace negotiations.

The Israeli prime minister, who is in Germany on a three-day visit and took part in the Congress of the Socialist International in Berlin, also linked its willingness to negotiate to the understanding that an agreement between Israel and Syria could not be a precondition for negotiations with other Arab delegations. An agreement had to "stand on its own." Rabin also reiterated the Israeli Government's wish to exhaust all possibilities for peace in the Middle East within the framework of the Madrid conference as well as in bilateral negotiations with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Prime Minister Rabin on Visit to Germany

WA1509184192

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Germany, including reports on his talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, please see the Germany section of the 15 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Peres on Autonomy, PLO, Talks With Syria

TA1509184492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Shim'on Peres, acting prime minister and foreign minister, said today that an arrangement for the Gaza Strip will be made in the same framework with the arrangement for Judaea and Samaria, and that there will be autonomy in each of the areas.

Minister Peres toured the Gaza Strip today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today toured the Gaza Strip and received a first-hand impression of the economic situation there. At a news conference held near the Erez checkpoint, Peres was asked about the concept of Gaza first.

[Peres] Negotiations are in progress today, both with Gaza and with Judaea and Samaria. The negotiations are parallel and joint. I do not see a reason to separate the two at this time. The negotiations held now deal with a single solution for both Gaza and Judaea and Samaria. Each of them will have autonomy.

[Amir] As for the current round of negotiations with the Arab countries and the Palestinians in Washington, Peres said he believes the Palestinians should take what Israel is offering.

[Peres] I hope that this time as well, or at least this time, the Palestinians will not be late for the train. Israel is making them an offer in which it is the only one to take the risks, while all the advantages are on the Palestinian side. I find the Palestinian side hard to understand. Why does it not join the plan, which can be made flexible? After all, we have said that the self-government will be limited in time, and in five years it will be replaced by a permanent plan.

[Amir] Peres also responded to questions of Palestinian correspondents from the Gaza Strip. One of them asked why Israel is not negotiating directly with the PLO, when it is known to all that the Palestinian delegates represent the PLO.

[Peres] I do not understand this at all. The PLO is saying that all the residents of the territories are PLO. What should we do about them? Today we have a Palestinian delegation recognized by all the Palestinians, by most of the Palestinian organizations. Who needs more? We, the Arabs, and the Palestinians recognize them. We have stated that we will not examine who they consult with. They may consult with whomever they want. What is wrong with this? I would like to add one more thing: Any talk about changing the composition of the delegation would only waste our time and, instead of dealing with the essence, we would again be dealing with procedures—a waste of time.

[Amir] Referring to the future of the Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip, the foreign minister stated that the government's position is that Jewish settlements in the territories should not be moved.

[Peres] Generally, we believe that settlements should not be affected. There is no need to add or break up settlements. That is what we have also told the Arab side on the eve of the negotiations, and what we are repeating now.

[Amir] The foreign minister confirmed that he made it clear to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas that France must play a role in the peace process in the region.

[Peres] I did not tell Mr. Dumas what to do. After all, he is the French foreign minister. I did tell him that France must perform its role in convincing the Arab side—the Palestinians and the Syrians—of Israel's serious intentions, and take urgent action toward this end.

[Amir] Minister Peres stressed that Israel has made it clear to the Syrians that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 will be implemented on the Golan Heights as well, and that Israel's Government is also willing to negotiate the

territorial issue with Syria, in the framework of an arrangement. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 15 September, in another report on Peres' visit to the Gaza Strip, carries a recorded passage of Peres speaking in Hebrew, in which he says: "There are still many things that can be done in Gaza, from the economic point of view. I believe that tourism can be developed here. Gaza has one of the most beautiful beaches. There are many Palestinians living abroad who want to invest in Gaza, which we encourage. As a matter of fact, we are calling on all the nations of the world: Whoever wants to make investments in Gaza, help it develop, will find that we have an open-door policy—as long as this is our responsibility. A slight recovery of the economic activity can be noted here, though I would not like to overestimate its pace. As far as we are concerned, this is an encouraging sign."]

Comments on UN Resolutions

TA1509115792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today clarified Israel's understanding of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 with regard to the Golan Heights. Peres was addressing a Jewish delegation from Columbus, Ohio, in Jerusalem. Steve Linde reports:

[Begin recording] [Linde] Responding to a question from the audience, Foreign Minister Peres said Israel is in a difficult predicament in negotiations with Syria over the Golan.

[Peres] On the Golan Heights we have two problems: One is how to keep the Golan Heights, and the other is how to attain peace, and I am not sure that one is complementing the other.

[Linde] Peres said Israel and Syria have a different understanding of the UN resolutions on which the peace talks are based.

[Peres] They think that 242 and 338 is basically a territorial commitment that calls for Israel to give back all of the land, and we think that 242 and 338 is a political document that has a territorial aspect, but it is by far wider than that. And when Resolution 242 and 338 was taken, the argument was about the wording. The Arabs wanted to word it that we have to give back all of the territories, and we insisted to give back territories—which means not all of the territories. The only problem was in the translation in French, because in French you do not have the niceties of the English language, and there is: tous les territoires [last three words in French], which can be explained in this way and that way, and since then, the Arabs are speaking French and we are speaking English. [laughter] But what is binding really is the original language, and the original resolution was taken clearly in the English language.

So we have said: If you, gentlemen, are ready to make a full-fledged peace—which is the content and the intention of Resolution 242 and 338—we are ready to consider—yes—a territorial compromise.

[Linde] The foreign minister would not elaborate on a statement he reportedly made yesterday, that the UN resolutions meant Syria and not just Israel had to make territorial concessions on the Golan Heights. [end recording]

Dumas Said Mediating Among Israel, PLO, Syria

TA1509210492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] French political sources this evening claimed that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was about to hold contacts with the PLO leadership and senior Algerian Government officials. These contacts were said to be coordinated with Israel. Our correspondent Yo'av Tocker reports that the French sources claimed that in the course of talks he held last week in Paris, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had agreed to French mediation between Israel and the PLO leadership, and at the same time between Israel and the Algerian Government.

On the basis of the understanding reached with his Israeli colleague, the French foreign minister yesterday held a long meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus.

In reaction to these reports, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials asserted that Mr. Peres had asked his French counterpart, while in Damascus, to stress to the Arab parties that Israel's proposals were fair and practical, and that Israel was serious about the peace process.

Beilin Sees Peace Agreements 'Within Months'

TA1509191192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is currently visiting Washington. Among other issues, he will discuss the incorporation of Israel into the bloc of West European and other countries in the United Nations. Israel is the only country in the world that does not belong to any geographic bloc in the United Nations. If Israel is coopted into the European bloc, it will be able to compete for a seat on the Security Council. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan interviewed the deputy foreign minister.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Dr. Yosi Beilin, if the talks with the Palestinians continue to tread water, will Israel submit any additional or new proposals?

[Beilin] I do not believe that these talks must tread water. I very much hope that we shall be able to make progress. I do not think that we have to check daily whether there has been a breakthrough. This is a very complicated and lengthy process. It is very important to be patient over the next weeks and months. We are not talking about years but rather months, and I believe and hope that we will achieve a breakthrough within months.

[Golan] Things also seem very complicated on the Syrian track. The Syrians are still talking about a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, whereas Israeli cabinet ministers do not seem to want or agree to a full withdrawal.

[Beilin] Yes, things are complicated but not impossible. The change that has taken place on both sides is that today Israel is speaking about a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights and Syria is talking about a peace agreement. Now that these two things have happened, I believe that we are on the right track. This issue is also a very complicated one. Israel has manifold security needs and we will not be able to make any easy concessions; however, in my opinion, the moment these two developments took place it became possible to reach an eventual agreement. I hope that this will be achievable within months.

[Golan] One of the issues you are dealing with here in your visit to the United States is Israel's participation in the multilateral committees on refugees and regional cooperation. Is any solution on these issues in sight?

[Beilin] Regrettably not yet. I brought several proposals with me that would permit us to participate on condition that the Palestinian delegates do not belong to the Palestine National Council, come from East Jerusalem, or raise what they call the right of return. Up until this very moment, I could not reach such an agreement with the Americans that would enable our participation; however, we still have another month in which I will continue to strive to reach an agreement. [end recording]

Comments on Egypt's Role

TA1309201392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Eli Nisan at Beilin's office in Jerusalem "prior to Beilin's departure for Ben-Gurion Airport for his flight to Washington"—recorded]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr. Deputy Foreign Minister, in your talks with representatives of the Egyptian Government over the weekend, did the possibility arise that Egypt would increase its involvement in the peace process in the region?

[Beilin] I asked this of the Egyptians. In my opinion, this is an extraordinary opportunity. Imagine that on the day of my departure from Egypt, that same evening, all Arab foreign ministers arrived there for an Arab League meeting. This is an extraordinary feeling, and Egypt can surely take pride in the fact that it is the only Arab country having a relationship with the entire Arab world as well as with us. I believe that there is room for making more intensive use of this situation. I have no doubt that the Egyptian leadership is aware of this and wants to do something, and I hope that I contributed to encouraging this phenomenon and their involvement in the peace process. Expanding the peace process is a national Egyptian interest, there is no doubt about this. I believe much more can still be done in this sphere.

[Nisan] Mr. Beilin, did the possibility of abolishing the Arab boycott on Israel arise in your talks in Egypt, in return for gestures Israel has made lately?

[Beilin] Yes, this issue was raised. It was raised when I was still in the opposition, with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who said: If you stop the settlements, we will do everything we can to stop the boycott. I told him now: Look, I know your argument today. Well, we have made an unusual effort to stop numerous settlements, thousands of housing units, and to cancel incentives for people who move to live in the territories. You, Musa, say that since this is not 100 percent yet, you cannot stop the boycott. Well then, if this is so, do something in return for what we did. You say you cannot stop the boycott; still, do half the job—we did half the job—stop half of the boycott then. I definitely received his promise that an effort will be made—I do not want to say anything beyond this—to examine seriously the possibility of partial action on the boycott issue. If this materializes, I believe it will be a very important signal that the Arab world too understands what has been done here in recent months.

[Nisan] Mr. Beilin, you are supposed to leave for Washington today for the multilateral talks on the water issue. What guidelines did you receive?

[Beilin] I am very much interested in reaching greater coordination with all elements, including Egypt, the Americans, and the Europeans, in preparation for the resumption of the multilateral talks. These are important talks: on water which is a vital and a very urgent issue in some places in the Middle East, and also on arms control. I think that just as I might have managed to advance the arms control issue somewhat in my talks in Egypt, although this was very difficult, so in a meeting with the Americans too, it will be possible to coordinate several matters. For example, the continuation of the talks, that they not be held once or twice, for a day or two, every six months or so....

[Nisan, interrupting] Should the level of the participants in these talks be raised?

[Beilin] Not for the talks themselves, only for the committee that oversees the talks, the steering committee. If it is possible to upgrade it to the foreign minister level, it would be very important. What we suggest, though, is ongoing multilateral talks with the existing compositions on all committees. If this comes to pass, it will imbue the multilateral issues with greater importance and may also speed up solutions, some of which possibly concern the preparation of plans for a peace situation, and some of which concern burning issues. For example, the need to handle urgently the water problem in Gaza.

[Nisan] Mr. Beilin, Egypt [word indistinct] pressures by the United States to include its initiative for a nuclear-free zone on the agenda of the arms control committee. How did you handle this issue in your talks in Egypt?

[Beilin] Let me tell you, I did not have a simple talk with the Egyptian foreign minister on this issue. It was a sincere talk. What does sincere mean in diplomacy? It means that there are disagreements but that we are candid with each other, and this is exactly the way it was. We were candid and there was a dispute. I tried to explain our position. For all the problems involved, our signing such a document before peace is established in the Middle East would be an error. We cannot build the second floor before the first. The first floor should be peace in the Middle East. The second floor can be a joint effort to free the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction. If we can reach this, it will be the correct thing to do. If we are pressured to build the second floor before the first, building the first floor will be a problem too.

[Nisan] What was the Egyptians' reaction to your remarks?

[Beilin] I think that the Egyptian foreign minister understood the problems we see on this issue. At the same time, he said that security is a key issue in Egypt's view as well, that it is extremely important for Egypt to promote the issue of freeing the Middle East of weapons of destruction, and that there is a link between the signing of a treaty on freeing the Middle East of chemical weapons and the signing of a treaty on freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons. Therefore, it was impossible to reach full agreement on this matter. Nevertheless, I hope that the rapprochement between Israel and Egypt as a result of our talk yesterday will find its expression in the meeting that will take place in Moscow this week.

Upbeat Reports on Talks Said Designed for Bush

TA1509124692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Sep 92 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Blah-Blah, Bush-Bush"]

[Text] The only thing on which the Syrians, the Palestinians, and the Israelis have an interesting agreement is the one issue they do not discuss: President George Bush. All three sides, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, are interested in his reelection. If I read it correctly, the goodwill gushing from all sides stems first and foremost from the wish to help Bush best his adversary. In a takeoff of the popular Israeli song "Blah-Blah," one might say that the sides are talking blah-blah but mean Bush-Bush.

Everybody realizes that "the continuous talks" are taking place at a time when the administration is struggling for its survival and has neither the time nor the inclination to engage in real mediation efforts between the sides. The wide gaps in the positions of the sides notwithstanding, a tacit agreement has emerged between them that the show must go on and look good. The nice backdrop and the positive words are showing the U.S. voter at least one outstanding accomplishment by Bush.

Nevertheless, Yitzhaq Rabin gave Itamar Rabinovich and Elyaqim Rubinstein limited authority for the second round of the talks. Check out their intentions but do not commit yourselves to anything, he told them. At the same time, he instructed them to maintain the positive momentum. I would not be surprised if Hafiz al-Asad issued similar guidelines.

In practice, there has been no change in the positions Rabin outlined in an interview I conducted with him about three weeks ago. Al-Asad has not yet agreed to a full contractual peace with Israel. He has not accepted Rabin's concept of territorial compromise, to the effect that even under full peace Israel would maintain a military presence on the Golan Heights. A peace arrangement with Syria is problematic because of al-Asad's refusal to make a separate peace with Israel and the complex problems in south Lebanon, and particularly due to the fact that al-Asad is not prepared to understand that, after 45 years of war with Israel, he cannot get back "every last inch" of territory he lost in war. It is inconceivable that an aggressor should not have to pay any price, only because he deigns to agree to make peace with us. Moreover, the complex issues with Syria look like child's play compared to the maze of problems with the Palestinians. It is clear to all that without serious U.S. intervention, nothing will budge. And there will be no real intervention without Bush.

Why the Arabs should want Bush is obvious. In the last year he has left no doubt that his intention is to make Israel withdraw from the areas it conquered in 1967. In the aftermath of Desert Storm, Bush became al-Asad's brother in arms, as well as his sole financial and military backup. The Palestinians also have faith in him. In the eyes of the Arabs, a Democratic rise to power would be perceived as a victory of the Jewish force. Their interest in wanting Bush and helping him out is clear.

Rabin's motives are more complex and less clear. The following assessment is speculative and is not based on any talk with him and/or with his associates. First of all, Rabin has always had a soft spot for or an affinity with Republican Presidents. He understood Richard Nixon better than he understood Jimmy Carter, during whose tenure he stepped down from power. He scored his only achievements with Republicans Gerald Ford and Henry Kissinger. His contacts with Bush—even when the latter was vice president and he was defense minister, but more so at their meeting in Kennebunkport—gave him the feeling that they see eye to eye. Second, his meeting with Bill Clinton left him worried and uncertain about the man's grasp of world affairs and about Israel's place in his order of priorities as President. Third, Bush's chances are so iffy that a marginal Jewish vote in his favor in several states could tip the scales.

The loan guarantees were meant to ensure these votes, and they also symbolize his future commitment to Israel's security. Rabin is sure that Bush will not sell Israel down the river.

The continuation of the Washington talks in a positive atmosphere works in Bush's favor. All the sides are trying to please him, and they will probably do their best to go on with the show until after the elections, even if they do not make any real progress. It only remains to be seen whom Bush will remember fondly if he returns to the White House for another four years.

Official Sees 'Minor Border Adjustments' in Golan

TA1509191392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Deputy Education Minister Mikha Goldman this evening inaugurated a pedagogical center on the Golan Heights. Goldman expressed the belief that the center, which was established in Qatzrin, will remain within the boundaries of Israel even after a peace agreement is signed with Syria. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports:

[Begin recording] [Aviv] Deputy Education Minister Mikha Goldman did not come to the Golan Heights to identify with the local residents. Goldman, a faithful follower of Yitzhaq Rabin, nevertheless said that the Labor party platform calls for peace together with settlements, and expressed the belief that this is the policy the prime minister will adopt.

[Goldman] We have reiterated that we are not coming with the intention of giving up settlements on the Golan Heights. We did not say that we are stepping down from the Golan Heights. On the contrary, this evening I am here on the Golan Heights in order to inaugurate the pedagogical center that will serve all the Jewish and Druze settlements on the Golan Heights. The Israeli Government has decided to continue to build on the Golan Heights. Therefore, there is no contradiction in the statements I have made. I think that if we are in the midst of a peacemaking process, we must also bear in mind that there may be minor border adjustments that will not affect the security of the settlements on the Golan Heights and in northern Israel.

[Aviv] Goldman also said that in light of the Syrian reaction to the Israeli document, the settlers on the Golan Heights have nothing to be worried about. At the conclusion of his remarks at the ceremony inaugurating the Golan Heights pedagogical center, Goldman said that he believed that when peace was established with our Syrian neighbor, the educational center would expand even further. [end recording]

Der'i Promises Golan Settlers Development Budgets

TA1509111492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Sep 92 p A3

[Report by Yerah Tal and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Arye Der'i met Yehuda Wolman, head of the Golan Regional Council, and his aides yesterday. He promised that his ministry will allocate to the Golan Regional Council development budgets for the years 1992-1993, particularly to finance sewage and water projects and local roads. The minister promised his interlocutors that he will tour the Golan Heights soon, meet with local residents, and hear their complaints first hand.

At the beginning of the meeting, Wolman thanked Der'i on behalf of all the Golan settlements for his "intense and assertive actions" to ensure that the World Zionist Federation's Settlement Department received an allocation in the state budget. He also thanked the minister for "being particularly sensitive and understanding regarding the needs of the region and its residents in view of the processes they are undergoing at present." [passage omitted]

EC To Back Proposal for Gaza Desalination Plant

TA1609054792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Israel and the EC have decided to set up a committee to study Israel's request to update its agreements with the Community. The agreements went into effect 17 years ago. The agreement to set up a committee came in a meeting in Jerusalem between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the head of the EC's Middle East division, (Herbert Rein).

In a related development, the EC has decided to back the Israeli proposal to build a desalination plant in Gaza. The total cost of the project is put at $250 million.

Peres Defends Mitterrand as 'True Friend of Israel'

TA1509115092 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 14 Sep 92

[Communication by the Foreign Ministry spokesman]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres appeared today, (Monday), 14.9.92, at the Knesset Committee for Security and Foreign Affairs. He briefed the committee on his official visit to Britain and France. MK [Knesset Member] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar claimed that France is maintaining a double policy towards Israel on the issue of the Arab boycott. To this Peres responded that France is one of the only countries in the world which acted in Israel's favor, for example, by enabling Israel to construct a nuclear plant and supplying it with weapons in its most troubled hour, some of which was given without payment.

Peres added that President Mitterrand is the only European president to come on an official visit to Israel, as he will in November this year. He noted that Mitterrand is the only president who has never once spoken out against Israel. There are, Peres admitted, differences on the PLO issue, but even among us there are differences

on this. Peres stressed that Mitterrand is a true friend of Israel and the Jewish people, knowledgeable in Jewish history, and when there were attacks against Jews in France, he condemned their acts vigorously and identified with the victims. Peres disclosed that President Mitterrand expressed bitterness at Ben-Elisar's remarks made during the Gulf war regarding France's aid to Iraq on the range of Scud missiles.

U.S. Reportedly Offers Equipment Storage Deal

TA1309204192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The United States is offering that Israel store the equipment of two U.S. divisions, one of them armored, on Israeli territory. This proposal was discussed in the course of recent contacts concerning the planes deal with Saudi Arabia. Our correspondent in Washington Ehud Ya'ari reports that it was agreed that the United States and Israel would set up five committees on the strategic cooperation issue, in order to make good on the promise to maintain the qualitative edge of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Our correspondent adds that the U.S. Administration has expressed willingness to sell Israel additional F-15's, with better equipment than that introduced into the planes that will be supplied to Saudi Arabia.

Storage Deal Questioned

TA1509122192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Recycling a Promise"]

[Text] Sources in Washington tell us that Israel will get a "compensation package" for the sale of 72 F-15's to Saudi Arabia. The package supposedly includes storing the military equipment of two Army divisions on Israeli soil.

Such reports evoke a sense of "deja vu." After all, did the administration not promise to position this and other equipment from U.S. warehouses in Europe here on the eve of the Gulf war? And what has happened since then, despite our restraint during Desert Storm? Nothing. Defense Secretary Cheney's promise to then-Defense Minister Arens has not been fulfilled to this day.

Let us call a spade a spade. What sources in Washington call a compensation package is nothing but the recycling of an unfulfilled two-year-old promise. Moreover, Bush's latest promise to Rabin that the United States is committed to maintaining our military qualitative edge has yet to materialize.

Although the Israeli Government—aware of its limitations and of President Bush's economic and political troubles—denounced the deal with Saudi Arabia, it actually conceded defeat after soberly recognizing that the deal was inevitable.

Nevertheless, the Israeli Government need not ignore Washington's attempt to pull the wool over our eyes: The positioning of the aforementioned equipment is not compensation but the fulfillment of an old promise and does not illustrate the President's promise to uphold our qualitative edge.

'Compensation' Demand for Saudi Deal Dropped

TA1109122092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Sep 92 p A1

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel will not ask the United States for political compensation for the U.S.-Saudi deal on the sale of 72 F-15E planes. Its demands will focus on the defense sphere, in which Israel will seek to preserve its technological potential and qualitative edge.

In talks held in Israel, it was decided to withdraw the proposed request that the United States pressure Saudi Arabia to terminate the boycott of Israel in return for the aircraft deal.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held consultations on the Israeli response to the Saudi deal. U.S. President George Bush already promised this week that Israel's qualitative edge would be preserved following the sale of aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Dennis Ross, the director of the State Department's policy planning staff, has even told Israeli Ambassador in Washington Zalman Shoval that the United States is prepared to discuss compensation for the deal.

The Israeli professional echelons recommended that in view of the attempts to slash the foreign aid budgets, Israel should present the Americans only with requests that are not likely to provoke a political controversy in the United States. Therefore, Israel will not ask for additional weapons or economic aid in compensation for the sale of advanced aircraft to Saudi Arabia. Rather, it will seek to strengthen the local capability for the development and production of defense equipment, which is essential for maintaining the element of surprise and advantage on the battlefield.

Israel will apparently request a U.S. pledge that in the next American fiscal year (1994), the convertible part of the military aid, which is used to finance procurement from the Israeli defense industries, will remain unaltered.

The conversion of aid funds into shekels was designed to preserve the Israeli industry's technological standards and to finance the research and development of sophisticated weapons. In the coming fiscal year (1993), which starts on 1 October in the United States, Israel will receive $1.8 billion in military aid, $475 million of which may be converted into shekels.

In the course of Rabin's recent U.S. visit, the Americans avoided making a pledge regarding the future of the aid conversion. The U.S. defense industries have for years pressured the administration and Congress to terminate the arrangement, which deprives them of orders and strengthens the rival Israeli industry. This year, the

conversion funds have financed some 22 percent of the defense establishment's local procurement, but Israeli elements are of the opinion that the present level of these funds will be difficult to maintain.

Other proposals under discussion included a request that additional tenders issued by the U.S. Armed Forces be opened to Israeli companies in order to increase the defense exports to the United States and a request that U.S. defense technologies export licenses, which were suspended by the State Department, be unfrozen; however, Israel will not raise disputed issues, such as a license to export supercomputers.

PLO Sets Up Religious Movement To Counter Hamas

TA1209122292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The PLO has recently set up a religious movement to counter the influence of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus has learned that a decision on this was made in one of the recent gatherings of the PLO leadership. The movement is named The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and it supports negotiations as a way to solve the Palestinian problem. At the same time, our correspondent notes that in its messages the new movement warns the Palestinians against cooperation with Civil Administration leaders in the territories.

Arab Banks Protest Restrictions in Territories

TA1509135292 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Sep 92 p 23

[Excerpts] The Palestine Bank's executive has filed a petition to the High Court of Justice against the Gaza Civil Administration and the Bank of Israel because of their refusal to permit it to open two branches in Ramallah and Nabulus. In the petition, Hashim al-Shawwa, chairman of the bank's executive, accuses the Civil Administration and the Bank of Israel of refusing permission to open the branches for political reasons. He claims that the military governor of Gaza asked him to change the name of the bank as a condition for getting the permit to open the branches in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

It has been learned from the office of the coordinator of activities in the territories that the applications were rejected only due to technical and professional reasons, as customary in such cases. [passage omitted]

Two Jordanian banks, the Arab Real Estate Bank and the Bank of Jordan, have recently announced their willingness to open branches in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They, too, claim that the Bank of Israel refuses to grant them permission to open branches in East Jerusalem, and that this is the reason they are not yet operating there.

Bank of Israel sources claim that contacts for the opening of branches of Arab banks in the territories should be held by the Bank of Israel and the central banks of the Arab countries, as stipulated in the international charters governing this type of relations. Moreover, the sources say, the two Jordanian banks have not yet submitted an official request to open branches in East Jerusalem.

Al-Sharif Criticizes No-Fly Zone, Gulf Rulers

JN1509092692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] London, 14 Sep (INA)—Jordanian Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has said that the allies' plan to impose an air ban on southern Iraq constitutes flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, published in London today, the Jordanian minister said that this action is not justified as it comes within the framework of a plan to tear Iraq apart and encroach on its sovereignty and unity. This, he said, is a denounced and rejected action because Iraq has been united since the dawn of history and the attempt to partition it is a serious precedent to partition the entire Arab homeland.

Al-Sharif called for halting the policy of provoking Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs, and for lifting the unfair blockade, which lacks all ethical and legal justifications and which is considered an unprecedented action.

Referring to the pressures preventing ships from reaching the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah, the Jordanian information minister said that these pressures are continuing and have greatly affected the economic situation.

Al-Sharif ruled out the possibility of holding an Arab summit conference at present. He called for establishing a dialogue among the Arabs to discuss the current Arab situation, noting that Arabian Gulf rulers are still advocating the logic of alliances [tayyarat], estrangement, and revenge.

Writer Replies to Criticism of Article on King

JN1509104692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Sep 92 p 4

["The View From Fourth Circle" by Rami G. Khuri: "Once Again, With a Bit More Clarity..."]

[Text] I have been astounded and saddened by the controversy created by my column of last week, and I am particularly sorry that so many people were offended and angered by it. Clearly, that was not my intention. I am confident that most of the ill feelings resulted from severe misinterpretations of my intentions and misreadings of my words. Perhaps I am to blame for so much ambiguity in the article—one of my shortcomings as an Anglophonic Arab writer—or for phrasings that could have been interpreted as offensive insinuations. This was not my intention.

I am also sure that the anger towards me is a result of misunderstandings and misreadings, because I have had so many calls and messages from Jordanians who saw the article as an expression of faith in the king, people, and country of Jordan. Many people understood what I meant to say; many others did not. I see now, in retrospect, that many people deemed the very subject of the article and its timing to be inappropriate and discourteous. No matter how carefully I phrased my words, I was probably bound to be misunderstood and attacked. This is an occupational hazard that comes with public writing and speaking. The reverse side of this is the responsibility to explain and clarify, and also to express regret when offense has been taken, even if offense was not meant.

I am particularly grieved that many of those who were offended chose to attack me on a personal basis, essentially accusing me of being a disloyal and disrespectful Jordanian who should be hounded out of town for his Palestinian heritage and American passport. I was saddened by the sarcasm, the attempts to discredit me personally, the attempt to cast doubt on my credentials as a Jordanian national, and the obvious desire to hurt that was clear in some of the published letters and Arab-language columns. I can handle simplistic attempts to smear my character, while I am fully confident of my motives, intentions, identity, and status in Jordan. To those who are capable of listening with an open mind, as the vast majority of Jordanians are, I would say the following:

Many who misinterpreted my article thought I was suggesting that His Majesty King Husayn should step down soon. This was absolutely not my intention. I suggested that His Majesty and the country "contemplate the manner and nature" of a "phased, gradual transition," by which I was thinking of a time period years from now, and not next month.

My primary motive in raising this issue was to suggest a means by which we could gradually relieve the extraordinary pressures that the king has borne for over four decades. His greatest wish, I believe, is to see Jordan succeed him as a stable and productive country, secure in its national dignity, political composure, and human compassion. I am totally confident this will happen, and that the succession, when it occurs, will vindicate the king's trust in his people, his family, and his life's work. My suggestion to ponder a phased, gradual transition was meant as a sign of deep respect, affection and commitment to His Majesty and to Jordan—one small suggestion from one concerned Jordanian looking for ways to reduce the burden that the king has carried for four decades.

In this context, many of my words (the mention of Numayri, Barre, and the Shah, for example) were misunderstood. I meant that the king's whole life and the achievement of Jordan are already testament to his life's work to date and to his faith in God, country and people. Our challenge now is to seek ways to affirm and to perpetuate all this. It is preposterous that I should be seen to equate His Majesty with Numayri, the Shah, or Siad Barre, and I am astounded that some people have read my article this way. I mentioned these three men as examples of failures in nation-building, while the whole thrust of my column (and almost everything else I have said or written about Jordan in the last 17 years) is that history will credit the king as a master statesman.

The highest complement we can pay the king is to be truthful with him and about him, and to try to help him take his historical mission to an even higher level, by providing an example of durable nation-building for the Arab World. Barre, Numayri, and the Shah are the failures who contrast with the successes of King Husayn. I tried to encapsulate my motives in the last paragraph, in which I said that the king had given us so much that we need to give him more in return. That's what the article is all about. Perhaps my motives were more clear to me than my sentences were to those readers who misunderstood them and were angered or offended.

Many critics also thought I was somehow questioning the stability of Jordan when the succession to the post-Husayn era takes place, or questioning the fact that HRH Crown Prince Hassan would succeed. Such a reading of my column is absolutely wrong and totally fanciful. I did not in any way intend to talk about personalities, now or in the future. The fact that I did not mention names should indicate the long-term horizon I was trying to deal with in the article, and to do so from a perspective of deep affection and respect for the king and the country. To read my words otherwise is wrong.

The perception that I may have been casting doubt on the ability of Crown Prince Hassan to succeed is a shameless lie, absolutely shocking and unbelievable to me, and indicative of a tendency among some readers driven by deep fear of ghosts not known to me. I have only respect and esteem for Crown Prince Hasan, who showed his true mettle in 1991 when he told a television interviewer, during the Gulf crisis, that we live and die in Jordan. I believe that my record in Jordan over the years speaks for itself in terms of my working for the same Jordanian and pan-Arab goals that he has dedicated his life to.

I am perfectly aware of the Jordanian constitution's provisions for succession, and have full faith in the capacity of the people and political system of Jordan to implement all relevant provisions smoothly and with decorum.

For people to question my loyalty, and to accuse me of asking His Majesty to step down, disparaging the person of the Crown Prince, or questioning the ability of Jordan to survive a succession, is sheer fantasy. It may be the result of a mere misreading of my article or the ambiguity of my writing style; it may be a reflection of the sensitivities of the subject I raised, even though I raised it from a perspective of sincerely wanting the best for the king and the country; or it may be motivated by other, more sinister forces for provincialism that we have seen emerge in the press this week—forces that we shall fight, humiliate, defeat, and forever bury as antiquated relics.

I am amazed that my intentions or motives could be misunderstood in light of my life's history in Jordan. I don't write with my passport. I write with my heart and my head. Passports are travel documents. Identities are forged in geography and community. If some people suspect my credentials as a Jordanian national, I do not, and I will not play their hysterical and frenzied game of wallowing in fear and confusion. I have repeatedly stuck my neck out in public, in media and personal fora all over the world, defending and explaining Jordan and its positions, even at times when this was politically unpopular in the region or around the world. At the same time, I am proud of my Palestinian ties at all levels.

I have established my personal life and professional career in Jordan and have given as much as I can to the country. Is it imaginable that I would repay the confidence, trust, opportunity, and dignity of Jordan by suggesting in public that the king should step down, his Crown Prince is incapable of following him, or the country is somehow in trouble?

I believe my record of the last 17 years speaks for itself. I also believe that the only foundation on which I can stand is my commitment to the truth and my allegiance to my Jordanian-Palestinian-Arab identity. I seek no higher material or personal benefits from my personal and professional associations in Jordan. I remain committed to the truth as the vector of our common quest for a country that is good and always getting better, our testament to all that His Majesty, the rest of the Royal family, and the people of Jordan have achieved, and our mutual commitment to the ideals of a free and self-determinant Palestine and an integrated and noble Arab World.

I think that's what His Majesty the king and all others in Jordan also want—but the next time I venture to say so I'll make sure to use shorter sentences, more precise adjectives, and a lot more clarity.

Arab League Stands Toward Iraq, Iran Questioned

JN1509122692 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
15 Sep 92 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "An Exciting Pan-Arab Stand by the Arab League Council"]

[Text] The fact that this time the United States did not back the Arab League gives us the opportunity to learn more about its capacity, inability, weakness, and continuation as a tool to harm the homeland and the nation rather than serve its issues, ambitions, and aspirations.

The Arab League's stand toward the Iranian annexation of Arab islands in the Gulf region is a cause for sorrow. The Arab foreign ministers were content with a timid appeal to Tehran to stop its violations of Arab sovereignty over Arab territory.

This "brave" pan-Arab stand by their excellencies the ministers came after and not before the Iranian statements, announcing Iran's rights in Iraq, Bahrain, and elsewhere in the Arab homeland. It is certain that the Iranian reaction was equal, in its strength and clarity, to the Arab reaction, in its weakness, ambiguity, and fear.

The Arab League Council meetings, resolutions, official communiques, and statements made by its ministers

have brought us back to the angry, revolutionary, and decisive stand adopted by this Council toward the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. In this stand, the ministers even refused to call on Baghdad to get out of Kuwait and refused to provide an opportunity for an Arab solution. They also have shown their inability to do anything except prepare for an emergency Arab summit which adopted deplorable resolutions, which resulted in tragedies and placed us all within the disaster from which not a single state or people in our homeland and nation has escaped.

Why all this anger against Iraq, and all this leniency toward Iran?

Why this grudge against Iraq, and this fear of Iran?

Why all this decisiveness in the resolutions adopted, the armies prepared, and wars launced against the Iraqis, and all this kindness to Tehran?

We can pose many other questions or abandon them and stop looking for an answer to any of them because we and some of our brothers know that what great Iraq continues to face is tempting all our enemies to quickly take their share of the booty.

This Iranian talk about Bahrain, Iraq, and the Arab islands, and this not yet announced Iranian talk about the eastern part of fraternal Saudi Arabia would not have been declared so clearly if it were not for what continues to afflict Iraq and us, as well.

All the covetous in Iran and the Zionist entity have the right to seek great gains now that our enemies in the United States, France, and Britain only need our oil, which they have obtained, and all our assets, which they are controlling. There is no power and no strength save in God.

Foreign Minister Returns From Cairo Meetings

JN1509183992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir returned to Amman from Cairo this evening after leading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the 98th ordinary session of the Arab League Council, held on the foreign minister level at the headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: During this session, the Arab foreign ministers discussed a number of issues and developments on both the Arab and international arenas, including the Palestine question, the situation in south Lebanon, removing weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, the no-fly zone in southern Iraq, the crisis between Libya and the Western states, and the situation in Somalia.

He said that one of the most important subjects discussed by the ministers was Arab national security. He pointed out that a committee has been set up to discuss the subject and present it to the next meeting of the foreign ministers, to be held within the next six months.

Dr. Abu-Jabir pointed out that at the meeting he raised the concept of Arab national security at this historic phase and in the current Arab circumstances. He said this subject must provide the first step in the effort to clear the air.

Delegates to Water Meetings in Washington Depart

JN1209192192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] The second phase of meetings of the committees stemming from the Moscow multilateral talks on the Middle East will begin in Washington on Tuesday [15 September] with a meeting to be held by the water committee to discuss water problems in the region in order to draw up practical concepts for resolving them after peace is achieved.

The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations left Amman for the U.S. capital yesterday and today to attend these meetings, which will complement a meeting held by the water committee in Vienna on 12 May—a meeting that failed to achieve any results due to Israel's intransigence, its rejection of the principled Arab positions vis-a-vis the water crisis and the means of addressing it, and the Arab side's determination to gain its rights in full on Arab waters within the context of international resolutions.

Sources close to the Jordanian delegation said that the Jordanian position during these meetings stipulates that a solution to the water problem should be based on Israel returning the rights it wrested to their rightful owners and remedying the damage caused by wresting these rights in accordance with UN resolutions and international legitimacy and also within the context of a regional cooperation to be supported by countries which have expertise and resources in the world.

Sources close to both the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the committee meetings said that the positions of the two delegations are identical with regard to the need to make progress in the bilateral negotiations before progress can be made in the water negotiations. They added that Israel must pay for its constant violations of international water agreements. They noted that the international community, which contributed to the creation of Israel, must also help address the problems Israel created in the region.

UNIFIL Confronts Israeli Intelligence Officers

NC1609110492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] A group of Israeli enemy intelligence officers reportedly attempted to enter Kawkaba in Hasbayya district yesterday, but the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] confronted the group, preventing it from entering the town and firing several shots in the air. UNIFIL immediately reinforced its positions.

Resistance Deals 'Blow' to 'Zionist Occupiers'

NC1609071292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Islamic resistance fighters dealt a new blow to the Zionist occupiers yesterday, executing two successive heroic operations in the area between al-Dabshah and Hufrat al-Tuhrah. The first operation occurred at 1115 yesterday, when the Martyr Habib Tarhini Group detonated a large explosive under a six-man Israeli infantry patrol backed up by two Merkava tanks. All the patrol members were killed or wounded. The bodies of three enemy troops were seen at the site of the operation. The other troops were in a state of panic and confusion.

A few hours after this painful blow was dealt to the enemy, the heroic mujahidin carried out another attack. At 1335, while the enemy was evacuating its dead and wounded, the Martyr Hasan al-Haj 'Ali Nur Group detonated another device under a Zionist enemy patrol of two armored troop carriers and 25 troops, causing numerous casualties. An enemy helicopter was seen landing at the site of the operation to evacuate the dead and wounded.

Zionist enemy aircraft overflew the south at low altitude during the afternoon, breaking the sound barrier. Earlier, enemy artillery bombarded Kafr Rummān and al-Nabatiyah outskirts with fragmentation bombs. There were no casualties.

'Awn Urges Conference on Political Situation

PM1609112792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Opposition 'in Exile' Demand Urgent International Conference To Rescue Lebanon From Deteriorating Political Situation"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—[Former Lebanese Army Commander] General Michel 'Awn has urged the people of Kasrawan to "keep up the pledge and not to nominate anyone, participate, or vote in the elections under any circumstances." He said "I am confident that the people of Kasrawan will not nominate anyone or vote for any candidate introduced by the authorities against his will or for his own personal gain." He said that "the elections held recently have proved that they are invalid and illegal. They do not represent the Lebanese people at all, because they are rigged and violate the Constitution." Asked about the solution he believes is the way out of the dilemma, 'Awn said: "I insist on the need to convene an urgent international conference on Lebanon to draw up an international plan to rescue Lebanon from the deteriorating political situation."

Answering another question, he added: "The parties to the national agreement have contributed to the abrogation of this agreement deliberately and determinedly. They have abrogated it in an astonishing manner, both the part concerning accord and the part concerning relations with others. What real stipulations have been implemented? Have they collected the militias' arms? Have they formed a national accord government? Have they returned the evacuees? have they done anything in the occupied south?"

Answering another question, 'Awn said: "It is not important or necessary for Lebanon or the Lebanese opposition to call for such an international conference. It is sufficient for a major state or the EC to espouse it in order to become effective."

About his statement about his agreement to participate in the regime, 'Awn said: "What was attributed to me was incomplete. I said and continue to say that I am willing to participate in national reconciliation and in the regime on three conditions: first, unity of Lebanese ranks of both parts—Muslim and Christian; second, the clear and specific programming of foreign withdrawals; third, rescinding the elections held recently and regarding them as void."

Sources Reveal 'Coup Plot' Hatched by 'Awn

PM1509113692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 12 Sep 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Senior Lebanese Officer Flees to Paris"]

[Text] Beirut, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Well-informed Lebanese sources yesterday revealed that a senior Lebanese Army officer, namely Colonel Fayiz Karam, fled Beirut by sea to Cyprus and then to Paris to join former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn, to whom the French authorities have granted political asylum.

The sources told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that his flight coincided with the uncovering of a "coup plot" in the Army hatched by Gen. 'Awn and his supporters who still hold key positions in the Army. The aim of the plot was to seize command of the Army after arresting Gen. Emile Lahhud, the present commander, in order to secure 'Awn's return to Lebanon.

The sources stressed that chance enabled military security affiliates to uncover details of the attempt following an explosion that occurred in the office of one of the officers. The officer was killed immediately. After the investigations conducted with a female recruit wounded

in the incident, she provided information considered to be the clue that led investigations to the uncovering of the details.

The sources pointed out that the recruit's confessions led to the arrest of a large number of military personnel holding various ranks, among them six colonels who gave full evidence during their investigation that they belonged to a group that was preparing to arrest Gen. Lahhud and seize command of the Army in preparation for providing security conditions that would secure Gen. 'Awn's return from Paris to the Kasrawan area.

The sources stressed that the arrest could include a large number of officers and noncommissioned officers in various units in addition to some female Army recruits who were responsible for securing communication among officers and delivering messages between the leaders of the attempt.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT learned that investigations were concluded and the file closed in preparation for referring it to the military public prosecution soon.

Political circles linked the uncovering of the plot with the state of confusion in opposition ranks in the eastern areas that agreed unanimously to boycott the parliamentary elections.

Radio Sees Western 'War' Against Islam

NC1609093592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Station commentary: "Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Crime of International Silence"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. What is the message that the United States and Europe wish to send to the Muslims through events in Bosnia-Hercegovina? A war of extermination, in its fullest sense, is being perpetrated against the Muslims in an ethnic-cleansing operation to establish greater Serbia along the lines of greater Israel, greater Maronistan [reference to Lebanon's Christian Maronite community], and other hostile expansionist schemes inimical to the interests of nations and, particularly, Muslims. When we ask about the message, we mean that the United States and Europe are handling Bosnia-Hercegovina in a way that provokes the feelings and dignity of hundreds of millions of Muslims. While a massacre is going on, the Europeans are calling for a conference in Geneva that will bring together the various parties of the deadly strife. The victim is summoned to talk with the butcher under pressure of bombardment, flying bullets, and the shouts of the tormented and displaced.

Certainly, such a dialogue is forcible, because it places the representatives of Bosnia-Hercegovina's Muslims in a weak negotiating position under pressure of killings, displacement, and dispossession.

Negotiations while the war continues! Can such a process produce more than a barren dialogue in which the aggressor tries to dictate his terms, benefiting by his ability, international silence and indifference, and the victim's humanitarian needs?

The European sponsors of these negotiations should have first tried to halt the war and aggression before calling for a dialogue among the various parties. What happened was contrary to logic and the prerequisites of negotiating. You cannot talk of effective negotiations under gunfire, except if we acknowledge that European countries, governed by adventurous, anti-Islamic, extremist, chauvinist, nationalist, and ethnic mentality, intend to liquidate this Islamic pocket in Europe. At first we tried not to believe this, but now we are near to acknowledging this bitter and cruel fact, which is contrary to the concept of human rights. Europe, backed by the United States, stands impotent before the biggest human rights violation of modern times. The campaign does not merely aim to destroy a nation but to obliterate its identity and stamp it out as a country. This is extremely serious in a world where each cultural and ethnic group is supposed to express itself freely. More serious is that Bosnia-Hercegovina's Muslims do not represent a different ethnic or national group from the Serbians. We cannot justify events as a bitter national strife. The two groups are remarkably similar, ethnically. The problem is that these Bosnians have a different creed: Islam. Bosnia-Hercegovina's battle, backed by European silence and U.S. collusion, appears to be a war to drive Islam from Europe, using Bosnia-Hercegovina as the model for other Muslim communities in Europe. Religious tolerance in Europe is turning into intolerance and blind fanaticism against the Muslims. What message do the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina carry to the Islamic world? It is a war against Islamic identity that is likely to spread to the Islamic world itself. Will the Muslim rulers become aware of the danger or are they still counting on Western defense of Gulf oil rigs?

President, France's Dumas View Peace Talks

JN1509144692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Latakia—President Hafiz al-Asad met with Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, in Latakia yesterday afternoon. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the peace process and its developments. Dumas reviewed the results of the contacts held by the French Government recently on the ongoing bilateral peace talks in Washington and the role that France can play in giving momentum to these talks.

The president explained Syria's firm position vis-a-vis the peace process and its concern for achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with the principles of the Madrid peace conference. The president also welcomed a French and European role that would help the peace process achieve its goals.

Al-Shar' Stresses Israeli Withdrawal From Golan

JN1509145292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi's chairmanship, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today. The attendees reviewed recent political developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' briefed the attendees on the positive results of the Nonaligned Movement summit held in Jakarta; the outcome of the meeting held by the Damascus Declaration states in Doha; the Arab League foreign ministers meeting held in Cairo; as well as the outcome of Syrian-Russian talks held in Moscow.

The foreign minister also explained the results of the last round of peace talks in Washington. He stressed Syria's adherence to Israel's withdrawal from all of the Syrian Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The foreign minister also asserted that it is important for the parties participating in the bilateral peace talks to adhere to all the elements and requirements of peace stipulated in these two resolutions. Al-Shar' explained that the concept of peace that Israel seeks goes beyond the content of UN resolutions. He added that the concept of real peace that could achieve security and stability in the region requires achieving a comprehensive solution on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israeli Document Said Not To Constitute Response

JN1509144092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arab delegations to the peace talks, which held a coordination meeting yesterday, are unanimous that the Israeli side has not put forward serious and positive proposals to advance the peace process despite a 10-day recess devoted to consultations with their government.

The Israeli document that was presented to our delegation did not constitute a response, nor can it constitute a response, to the Syrian proposals, that the whole world, including the United States and Russia, said were historic by virtue of their objectivity, balance, and bases to achieve the desired comprehensive settlement.

The Israeli document focused on the Rabin government's concept of peace and its security requirements, ignoring the question of withdrawal from the occupied territories and not addressing the bases of the peace process, primarily return territory. In fact, it emptied the peace process of its real content and only addressed what is important for Israel's interests.

In spite of the fact that the Israeli side has said that its proposals are not final and could be amended or changed, the Arab delegations could not but express their disappointment, especially since they expected Israeli replies that would live up to the ideas and principles that were put forward and that live up to the peace process.

It is not time for procrastination, delays, and maneuvering. The former Shamir government wasted six months evading the requirements of peace. The Rabin government—which has declared on many occasions that it seeks to advance settlement in the Middle East and publicly admitted that the greater Israel scheme is only a big illusion and that peace is impossible to attain with the occupation of territory—is supposed to engage in peace talks responsibly and sincerely and offer efficient replies to Arab principles and proposals, instead of having recourse to the policy of maneuvering and procrastination.

Syria has declared—as President Hafiz al-Asad said and as Arab officials in the countries directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict have pointed out—that it is willing to establish real peace in the region, a peace that is just, comprehensive, and established on solid foundations. Such a peace, which is sought by the Arabs and the world, requires ending all forms of Israeli occupation and all manifestations of Israeli repression of Arab citizens, whether in the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, or southern Lebanon.

President Hafiz al-Asad warned of the traps and obstacles to which Israel might resort, asserting that Syria will never abandon pan-Arab constants, nor relinquish an inch of territory or any right of the national and pan-Arab rights; in other words, Syria is for a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and for a comprehensive peace. But it strongly opposes unilateral deals and Israel's attempts to divide the Arab ranks and offer temptations to an Arab party allowing it to seize the rights of another Arab party.

Peace should be honorable. It is the peace of the brave and the peace of knights that restores rights to their rightful owners.

Following a 10-day recess in the hope that Israeli negotiators would return with serious, practical proposals to advance the peace process, what the Israeli side presented in yesterday's meeting can never rise up to the level of the serious, balanced proposals presented by the Syrian delegation in the second week of this round of talks. The Syrian proposals constitute a challenge that reveals the reality of the frivolous Israeli position toward the entire peace process.

The Arabs will pursue the Washington talks till the very end. They will put the Rabin government to the test. The world must discover, sooner rather than later, which party supports peace responsibly and sincerely and which party maneuvers and evades to undermine the peace process.

Having praised the Syrian position, the world, represented by its influential states, must intervene to put things right and champion the principles of freedom, right, and justice, which are the same principles of international legitimacy.

Dailies Criticize Israeli Position at Peace Talks

JN1609083692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Newspaper commentaries continued to discuss the ongoing Washington peace talks and the positions of various parties vis-a-vis these talks.

The newspaper TISHRIN writes: Over a 10-day period, during which the Washington peace talks went into recess, the world waited for an Israeli response to the ideas and principles enshrined in the Syrian working paper to help achieve a just and comprehensive peace. But once the first talks after the recess were concluded, the climate that prevailed prior to the Israeli delegation's request for a recess in the talks to return to Tel Aviv for consultations with its government was seen again. Immediately afterward, the hopes for positive progress in the peace process vanished, because the Israeli memorandum submitted to the Syrian Arab delegation was unbalanced. It failed to mention the occupied territories. Consequently, observers were disappointed by the Israeli response. This does not only apply to the talks with Syria. Indeed, this also goes for the talks held with the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Jordanian delegations.

TISHRIN adds: Undoubtedly, Israel's decision to overlook the basic elements of peace—namely, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, a comprehensive solution, restoring the Palestinian people's rights, and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—is aimed at sidestepping these elements. Worse still, it is indicative of a failure on Israel's part to recognize them. Indeed, this has been shown by Rabin himself when he said that he is not willing to discuss issues related to Golan territory and accused the Palestinians of skirting the basic issue in the negotiations by demanding the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Furthermore, Rabin rejects a comprehensive solution on Arab fronts, as strongly demanded by Syria to achieve a just, true, and lasting peace. Nevertheless, we will not forestall developments. Indeed, it is a mistake to say that the talks have reached a dead end. But this does not prevent us from reiterating anew, for the thousandth time, that the ball is still in the Israeli court and that making any progress in the peace process is contingent upon the Israeli position, a favorable response on the part of the Rabin government to peace efforts, the termination of the occupation, a halt to settlement activities, and also upon acceptance of the principle of exchanging land for peace.

As for the newspaper AL-BA'TH, it comments about the Israeli intransigence vis-a-vis the peace process, writing: The Israeli position vis-a-vis the peace talks has remained unchanged, despite the strong campaigns being made by the Israeli side to give a face-lift to the Israeli position, particularly during the sixth round of talks.

The paper elaborates on this point, writing: After the Israeli negotiators demanded a 10-day recess for consultations with their government and preparing a response to the paper presented by the Syrian delegation, these negotiators returned with what they called a written response, to which they gave several epithets, including the phrase an attractive paper. But this response, once unveiled, turned out to be disappointing. Worse still, it has betrayed an intransigent and evasive Israeli course, which has remained unchanged since the start of the peace process in Madrid.

The paper continues: The Israeli response did not include a single word on withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, nor did it address the basis of the peace process, which is the principle of exchanging land for peace. AL-BA'TH indicates that the Arab side, represented by the four Arab delegations, affirmed that they will walk the peace path to the end.

AL-BA'TH adds: When leader al-Asad affirmed this position, which is based on the constants pertaining to our legitimate national and pan-Arab interests, he sought to show the world anew Israel's evasion and its rejection of just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH writes: For the sake of the peace process, international moves on all levels have become an urgent necessity. This peace process should not be allowed to reach a dead end, thanks to Israeli intransigence. In this regard, a European role looms on the horizon of disappointment that enveloped the Washington talks in the aftermath of the Israeli response, which is void of any positive element.

The paper adds: The European role is capable of advancing the peace process if the EC puts pressure on Israel, which is the least it can do.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH writes: Israel's return to efforts to impose faits accomplis and revive the old and well-known theories contained in the Israeli document, which lacks any mention of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories or recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and any principles or moves aimed to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions with the aim of concluding partial and separate settlements, betrays a dishonorable policy that is both rejected and unacceptable. These futile efforts are doomed to failure. These wedges, if they continue to be used by Israel, are capable of torpedoing the ongoing negotiations and pushing them toward a dead end and certain failure.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH writes: Unless there is a drastic and tangible change in Israel's position and political and negotiating discourse, and unless it accepts a comprehensive solution on all fronts of the conflict, there can be no peace, security, or stability. Besides, the region will remain vulnerable to a dangerous and all-out conflagration, for which Israel will be entirely responsible.

Afghanistan

Missiles Hit Kabul; 'Semblance of Normality' Noted

LD1509172292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Some areas controlled by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye in west Kabul were hit by three missiles this afternoon, and four people were killed. This happened while the cease-fire supervision team was attempting to find ways to resolve the dispute between the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Sayyaf.

According to other reports from Kabul, the city is gradually taking on a semblance of normality. Following the cessation of clashes in Kabul a number of people who had left Kabul are returning. However, the people still face shortages of food and fuel, and high prices.

Mojahedin Attack Kayani Militia Posts

LD1609090892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Quoting a reliable Hezb-e Eslami source, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports: Mojahedin of the Khinjan area in Baghlan Province commanded by Sofi Payenda Mohammad, along with mojahedin of Lashkar-e Imam Qotaiba commanded by Brother Nasratyar, jointly attacked on Sunday, 22 Sonbola [13 September], [word indistinct] center of Kayani militia. As a result, 20 security posts were captured, 25 people were killed, and two tanks were destroyed and four others captured. Fifteen of the enemy surrendered to the mojahedin along with their weapons.

Rabbani Receives Pakistani Ambassador

LD1609083992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan, today received Pakistani Ambassador Amir Usman at Golkhana Palace.

According a BIA report, during the meeting esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani expressed thanks for the assistance of the government of the Islamic state of Pakistan, and emphasized the necessity of assistance for the people of Afghanistan under such sensitive conditions by Islamic and friendly countries and other international societies.

Reciprocally, Mr. Amir Usman briefed Rabbani on the delivery and arrival of Pakistani assistance to Afghanistan, and expressed readiness for the continuation of this assistance by that country.

Spokesman on New Council, Tajikistan Border

LD1509165692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] foreign information section reports that Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, member and spokesman of the Leadership Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, who is abroad to receive medical treatment, attended a meeting organized by Afghan refugees and other Muslims in England to mark the birthday of Prophet Mohammad. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, in a section of his speech, said: Now that our country is liberated from Russian invaders and their obedient slaves and an Islamic government has been established, it is necessary for every person of the Muslim Afghan nation, anywhere in the world, to participate in an active manner in the reconstruction of the ruined Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni answered questions. Answering a BBC reporter's question on the future government of Afghanistan, he said: It is decided that a selected council, called the Council of Hal and 'Aqd, will be convened in two months. The council will unanimously make a decision on the future government of Afghanistan and will appoint a person as head of the Islamic State of Afghansitan for a duration of 18 months.

Esteemed Ayatollah Mohammad Asef Mohseni, answering a question about reports that armed men have entered Tajikistan from Afghanistan, said: No one has entered Tajikistan from the territory of Afghanistan, and the Islamic State of Afghanistan does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. He added: Afghanistan has no intention of overthrowing neighboring regimes, especially that of Tajikistan. It is the Muslim Tajik nation that loathes the communist regime of the Brezhnev era, and it is the Tajiks who will decide their political fate. Esteemed Ayatollah Mohseni emphasized: The Islamic State of Afghanistan does not have even a very small program to interfere in Tajikistan or other neighboring countries.

Bangladesh

Opposition Attacks New Antiterrorism Decree

BK1609081092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 16 (AFP)—Opposition leaders Wednesday attacked tough new anti-terrorism measures decreed without a vote in parliament, alleging the government would use them against legal political parties.

President Abdur Rahman Biswar late Tuesday signed the wide-ranging Anti-Terrorism Ordinance 92, which allows for the speedy trial and death penalty for "terrorists", official sources said.

Officials said the new ordinance covers such offences as hijacking, extortion, disrupting transport, creating terror, damage to property, intimidation and even harassing women.

They said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had approved the decree, which was still being reviewed by a parliamentary committee when it was promulgated, to increase the government's powers to tackle a worsening crime situation.

Sources said Zia decided to be tough after the August assassination bid on opposition left-wing MP Rashed Khan Menon, who was shot and seriously injured by unidentifed assailaints. Menon is now recovering at a London hospital.

Opposition leaders Wednesday charged the new law was anti-constitutional and designed to suppress their political activities.

"It is anti-constitutional as we were discussing the anti-terrorism bill in parliament... it is extremely damaging to the parliamentary system," said Abdur Razzak, an MP and a top leader of the opposition Awami League party.

Kamal Hossain, a lawyer of international repute and head of the newly formed Democratic Forum, agreed. "It was fundamentally unconstitutional and if existing laws were effectively used there was no need for the new one," he said.

Hossain hinted that he might challenge the ordinance in the courts.

The new measures would provide for the immediate investigation of offences by "mobile magistrates". A probe would be limited to two months and be followed by a trial lasting no more than four months before a special court headed by a government-appointed judge.

The sentencing schedule for offences under the new law starts at five years' jail and goes up to the death penalty, officials said. People arrested would not be allowed bail while being investigated.

Leading constitutional lawyer Amirul Islam also said the decree was anti-constitutional, but the government has special powers to promulgate ordinances when "there is is no other alternative."

"Maybe, it would have been fair to summon a special parliamentary session," for the new law because of the existing law and order situation, he added.

However, Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said the new measures would not affect anybody other than those involved in terrorist activities.

"It is the people's demand to nab terrorists and criminals as well as have speedy trials," he told ruling party newspaper Dinkal. "We are only honouring their demands."

Razzak alleged that Zia had "purposefully" allowed the situation to worsen so that she could justify the ordinance and then use it on political adversaries.

"It has opened a new path of torture and harassment on the opposition, as it gives authorities a free hand to arrest anyone suspected of terrorism," he said.

Deposed Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party had similar comments, while the right-wing Freedom Party, whose office was raided by police Sunday, said in its newspaper Millat that "in principle they support promulgating the ordinance considering the present situation, but there is a fear this law could be used as a weapon for political harassment."

Information Minister Najmul Huda said that for those who claimed the law could be used against political opponents it meant that other than terrorism these groups have no political programs.

"For criminals the new law can be tough, but there is little chance of innocent people getting punished," he told the opposition SANGBAD newspaper.

Protestors Stop Trucks With Aid for Refugees

BK1309144792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] DHAKA, Sept 13 (AFP)—People in two Bangladesh frontier districts Sunday staged demonstrations and prevented relief trucks carrying aid for Burmese Moslem refugees sheltered in camps there, residents and other witnesses said.

Contacted by telephone, they said few vehicles moved on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway Sunday and that the one or two which tried to were chased away by people from Ukhia and Teknaf.

A reporter said a jeep carrying an expatriate official of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) quickly turned back for Cox's Bazar when the residents came out of their huts, apparently to attack it.

Police in Cox's Bazar said they had no such information.

On Saturday, a half-day strike called by the Rohingyas Repatriation Action Committee (RRAC) paralysed the two frontier districts as well as Cox's Bazar.

The RRAC, which groups local residents angered by the long presence of the refugees, called Rohingyas, have called on the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to accept their 12-point demands.

These include fixing a firm date for the refugee repatriation, isolating the refugee camps from their villages and halting the construction of new ones.

Under a Bangladesh-Burma agreement signed in April, repatriation of some 280,000 refugees was scheduled to start on May 15. It was stalled after Rangoon refused to permit the UNHCR to monitor the process on its side of the border.

The Rohingyas also refuse to go home without U.N. guarantees for their safety.

The refugees streamed into Bangladesh starting in March 1991 alleging torture by Burmese troops. They are now sheltered in 17 camps in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts.

In recent months, the Rohingyas have fought with camp officials to stop repatriation plans.

Meanwhile, an experts' team of the UNHCR is likely to visit the frontier districts this month to assess damage caused to the area by the long presence of the refugees, officials said Sunday.

Forests and plantation on 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares), now occupied by refugee camps, were destroyed, causing environmental problems, they said, adding that trees were also indiscriminately felled for fuel.

The UNHCR is now thinking of supplying alternative fuels such as coal to the Rohingyas, they added.

Export Development Strategy to 2000 Developed

BK1309165092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The government has formulated a long-term export development strategy. The main objectives are: increasing job opportunities, poverty alleviation, and removing the country's about U.S. $2 billion trade deficit annually. Disclosing this in Dhaka today, Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan, said the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] government has strong political commitment to boost export earnings to catch up with the newly-industrialized countries of Southeast Asia. The export development strategy 1992-2000 would reflect Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's commitment to increase export earnings by removing all regulatory constraints, offering new policy incentives, friendly institutional framework, infrastructural support, and a massive program for the development of human resources. The government has decided to implement an export development program to expand and diversify the range of exportable products and provide technical and financial assistance to individual exporting firms.

India

Strike Marked by Violence in Bihar 15 Sep

BK1509080692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] In Bihar, normal life has been affected in most parts of Chota Nagpur and Santal Pargana areas, following the bundh [strike] call given by All Jharkhand Students Union and Jharkhand People's Party. Our Ranchi correspondent says some stray incidents of arson and violence have been reported. A Patna-bound bus was set on fire early this morning by some miscreants.

The DIG [Deputy Inspector General—of police], of South Chota Nagpur said that a loaded truck was burned in Jamshedpur by agitators, while some miscreants hurled a bomb on a private bus near Ranchi. One person was injured. According to the police, three students were arrested in Gumla District with three live bombs. The state transport buses are plying with police escort in Ranchi, Jamshedpur, and Gumla Districts. Most of the educational institutions have been closed. The bundh is reported to be total in Ranchi, Harazibagh, Gumla, and West Singhbhum Districts, while there has been partial response in Santal Pargana area. DIG [of], Hazaribagh said that the CPI [Communist Party of India] Member of Parliament, Mr. B.P. Mehta, has been arrested with 23 of his party followers for violating prohibitory orders in Hazaribagh District this morning. A PTI report says that Jharkhand People's Party chief secretary, Mr. Suryasingh Beesra, was arrested along with 10 supporters as soon as they arrived in Jamshedpur from Delhi today.

More Arrests Reported

BK1509162292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] In Bihar, the Jharkhand bundh [strike] today evoked widespread response amidst stray incidents of violence, arson, and squatting on railway tracks in some parts of Chota Nagpur-Santal Pargana areas. At least 500 persons were arrested for creating disturbance in Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Dhanbad and some other tribal districts. AIR [All India Radio] Ranchi correspondent reports that the Bombay-Howrah Express was detained by the agitators at Chaube railway station in Dhanbad railway division.

According to official sources, a state transport bus and a loaded truck were set on fire in two separate incidents in the east and west Singhbum districts. In Ranchi, three persons were injured when some miscreants hurled a bomb on a private bus coming from Muzaffarpur. At least eight persons were nabbed by the police in Ranchi and Gumla districts with seven live bombs.

The DIG [deputy inspector general] of police of Hazaribagh said that a CPI [Communist Party of India] member of parliament, Mr. B.P. Mehta, and a party MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. Ram Lakhan Singh, were arrested for violating prohibitory orders in Hazaribagh. Jharkhand People's Party general secretary, Mr. Suryasingh Beesra, and an Orissa MLA, Mr. Khel Ram Maheli, were arrested in Jamshedpur while attempting to force closure of shops. The bundh call was given by the All-Jharkhand Students Union and Jharkhand People's Party to press the demand for a separate Jharkhand state comprising 25 districts of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, and Madhya Pradesh.

The state chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has described today's Jharkhand bundh as a complete failure. Talking to newsmen in Patna this evening, Mr. Yadav warned that no one will be allowed to harm public property in the name of agitation. The chief minister alleged that the center's policy toward Jharkhand has disturbed peace in Chota Nagpur-Santal Pargana area.

The CPI has opposed the proposed economic blockade from tomorrow even though it supported today's Jharkhand bundh. Talking to PTI in Patna, the party secretary, Mr. Chaturanand Mishra, suggested the holding of a meeting of the representatives of the Center, the Bihar government, and various political parties to discuss the future administrative setup for it.

Railway Blown Up, Supplies Disrupted

BK1609081992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] In Bihar, a railway track was blown up as the 15-day economic blockade of Chota Nagpur and Santal Pargana began today. The blockade call has been given by the All Jharkhand Students Union and its political outfit, the Jharkhand People's Party, to press the demand for a separate Jharkhand state. The railway authorities in Ranchi said that the railway track between Gautamdhara and Chitta railway stations on Ranchi-Muri section of the Southeastern Railway was blown up this morning. Senior officials have reached the site and repair work is going on. Authorities are also making arrangement to restore train services on a single line that has remained intact.

The agitators disrupted the loading of bauxite ore in wagons in Lohardaga railway station. Reports received in Ranchi from coalfields say that production during the first shift in most collieries of the Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coalfields Limited remained unaffected. However, transportation of the coal disrupted since yesterday due to bundh [strike] has not yet been resumed. Meanwhile, security arrangements in the entire tribal belt of Bihar have been beefed up; 27 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed to guard railway installations and public undertakings.

Prices of Petroleum Products Increased

BK1609035492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Prices of petrol and petroleum products, barring kerosene oil for domestic use, have been increased with effect from last night. The increase is approximately 1 rupee per liter of petrol. The price of LPG [liquefied petroleum gas], however, has been increased by more than 15 rupees a cylinder. Petrol will now cost 15 rupees 71 paise a liter in Delhi and 17 rupees 91 paise in Bombay. It will cost 16 rupees 59 paise in Calcutta, while a consumer in Madras will have to pay 18 rupees 38 paise. High speed diesel will now cost 6 rupees 11 paise in Delhi, while in Madras one has to pay 6 rupees 91 paise per liter. For LPG, while a consumer in Delhi will have to 82 rupees 75 paise for a cylinder, it will cost 93 rupees 80 paise in Calcutta.

According to an official release, the rates have to be increased to meet the increased cost of production and marketing. The government has, however, spared the poor man's fuel, kerosene, from any price hike. The price of naphtha, which is used in the fertilizer industry, is being subsidized. The hike will net an additional revenue of 1,200 crore rupees to the government. The center has asked the state governments to take special measures to ensure that the kerosene reaches the target groups of the vulnerable sections of the society.

The Samajwadi Janata Party has criticized the government's decision to raise the prices of petroleum products. In a statement in New Delhi last night, the party general secretary, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, said it will be a burden on the common people, including housewives. He said the hike will also lead to an increase in the prices of other essential commodities.

Committee for Human Rights Legislation Established

BK1409162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 sep 92

[Text] A committee of concerned central ministers and five chief ministers have been set up to consider the proposed legislation for human rights commission. This was decided at the chief ministers conference on human rights in New Delhi today. The conference welcomed the proposal for setting up the national human rights commission and noted that it will supplement the efforts of a number of other agencies already working in the field and will go a long way in creating a sense of confidence among the people regarding the commitment of the Government and of the society at large to the cause of human rights. The committee will submit its report by the end of next month.

The conference unanimously adopted a resolution reiterating the commitment of the central and state governments toward protection of the rights of vulnerable sections of society such as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, women, child labor, bonded labor, and agricultural labor. The conference resolved that the problems of weaker sections should be addressed with utmost sympathy and expedition. Any violation of human rights should be dealt with sternly. It was agreed that special cells should be established at the central and state levels to deal with matters relating to human rights and to monitor closely any allegations of their violations.

Most of the chief ministers, while discussing the scope and functioning of the proposed commission, said that there should not be any duplication of the judicial process. They said that the new body should make use of the existing central and state investigating machinery. They expressed the view that the jurisdiction of the proposed commission should not overlap that of the other three existing commissions like commissions for scheduled castes and scheduled

tribes, for women and for the minorities. All the chief ministers expressed concern that the issue of human rights has been used by militants, terrorist and separatist groups to launch propaganda against security forces operating to curb their activities.

Earlier, addressing the conference, the prime minister said that a national level commission will help dispel any misgivings regarding the government's concern about human rights. Mr. Narasimha Rao made it clear that human rights cannot be seen to be the preserve of the practitioners of terrorism, while those dealing with the problem are falsely condemned for alleged violation of individual rights. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in his speech said that the Government is considering to bring a central legislation to deal with the crime committed in police custody.

Four 'Top' Militants Killed, 32 Arrested

BK1509131492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir four top militants of a pro-Pakistan militant outfit were killed and 32 others arrested by the security forces during search operations in different parts of the Kashmir Valley during the last 24 hours. The arrested include six top militants of the outlawed JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] and Hizbul Mujahidin.

No Plan Set for Air Force Training With U.S.

BK1509071892 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Sep 92 p 7

[Text] New Delhi—There is no immediate proposal for joint training between Indo-US air forces. Unlike the steering committees formed for interaction between the two nations' armed and naval services, a panel for the air forces has not yet been considered, according to Air Chief Marshal N. C. Suri.

In an informal chat with reporters, the air chief described his recent visit to Washington as a "goodwill mission", where no equipment purchases were discussed. He discounted press reports about the likely purchase of US C-130 transport planes by the Air Force.

He also quashed speculation about acquiring US F-16 aircraft because during his recent trip he had the opportunity to fly it. Describing it as a wonderful experience, the air chief recalled that he had flown the F-15 fighter aircraft during his earlier trip to Washington in 1989.

A wide canvas of professional conceptual issues, however, were reviewed with senior US Air Force officials. These included "philosophies and concepts of the two air forces, maintenance and logistic issues to make the service more cost-effective and cost- beneficial and a review of the young intake into the service."

The air chief spoke of the enthusiasm among women to join the non-technical branches in the Air Force. For nine vacancies available to women pilots in the transport and helicopter wings, nearly 24,600 applications have been received, the chief disclosed.

He said there was no cause for alarm over the existing problem of spares and overall assemblies for equipment of Soviet origin. Conceding that over 70 per cent of the Air Force equipment was from the erstwhile Soviet Union, the chief explained that as part of prospective planning, the Air Force had already worked out various options to overcome the problem, and "all earlier Indo-Soviet arrangements still exist".

Considering the economic resource crunch and the fact that the Air Force is tactical, which means reactive and not pro-active in nature, the chief accorded priority to the upgradation of the existing MiG-21 aircraft fleet than purchase of new fighter aircraft. "I'll not buy weapon systems based on imaginary threats," he asserted. This statement came in reply to a query that as China is understood to be acquiring flight-refuelling aircraft, would India be concerned about it.

Two areas, however, are high on the Air Force list. These are the advanced jet trainer and ensuring the service become leaner, more efficient and cost effective. While the decision for the advanced jet trainer now rests with the Government, as the Air Force has already expressed its option for either the French Alpha jet or the British Hawk, it is in the latter area that the service has now given full attention.

An exercise on in the Air headquarters to see how best manpower reductions in the Air Force can be balanced with its operational preparedness, the chief observed.

Operational preparedness has to take the sub-continental realities into account. Therefore, while useful lessons have been learnt from the recent Gulf war, not many need be implemented. Underscoring this point, the air chief opined that by far the most important lesson, which needs to be seriously considered, is the supremacy of air power, electronic warfare and the advancement made by the US and western powers in aviation systems and sophisticated munitions. Yet, we cannot give any value judgement on the war, as details are not available to us", Air Chief Marshal Suri said.

Commenting on the light combat aircraft, the air chief said if the LCA [Light Combat Aircraft], which is now a national project, becomes a reality, it would serve as the best option for the Air Force.

Market Opened To Foreign Institutional Investors

BK1409160892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] In a bold move to attract foreign investment, the Government today threw open the primary and secondary capital market to foreign institutional investors [FII], including pension and mutual funds. The 18-point

guidelines formulated for the purpose remove all restrictions on the volume of investment for entry to primary and secondary market.

An official release issued in New Delhi said that the foreign institutional investors will have to register with the Securities and Exchange Board of India and obtain the Reserve Bank's permission under the foreign exchange regulations. The FII's will also be allowed to deal with all securities, including schemes floated by domestic mutual funds. Portfolio investment in primary or secondary market will, however, be subject to a ceiling of 24 percent of the issued share capital. The holding of a single FII in any company will also be subject to a ceiling of five percent of the total issued capital. It will, however, not include direct foreign investments from the financial collaboration, which are permitted to 51 percent in all priority areas. The financial institutions can avail concessional tax at the rate of 20 percent of the dividend and interest income and 10 percent tax on long-term capital gains. The government will come forward with necessary legislative amendment while presenting the 1993-94 budget.

Iran

Reaction to Abu Musa Island Dispute Continues

Arab League's Position Criticized

LD1409161292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] In its session yesterday afternoon, the Arab League issued a statement endorsing the United Arab Emirate's [UAE] position regarding the three Iranian islands. We asked the Foreign Ministry spokesman of his views about this issue. He said: It seems that the Arab League's taking such irresponsible positions—the factor of foreign incitement aside—stems from an unrealistic evaluation of the Persian Gulf crisis. The outcome of the Persian Gulf crisis was the result of the world's will and international wishes that reject any historical claim for expansionist purposes and consider the furthering of that argument a cause of tension and instability on all existing borders in the world.

He added: Since Iran stresses that existing agreements and regulations should be respected and that it will not change its position, unfortunately, by raising this issue and asking for support, the UAE has evoked the principle of historical claim on the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek. When raising these claims, the views of the UAE Government and Arab League member countries are so unfounded that they are ignoring the fact that: First, raising the issue of historical claims is rejected by the world community; second, its spread would cause unrest in the region; and third, considering the history of the region, if that logic were to apply, the UAE would lose out more than anyone else.

Khamene'i Says U.S. Sowing Discord

LD1509112992 Tehran IRNA in English 1008 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday accused the U.S., Britain and other imperialist powers of attempting to sow discord between Iran and its neighbors in order to "justify their illegitimate presence in the Persian Gulf region." He added that the propaganda ballyhoo raised recently about Iran's Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa was "one of the plots of the enemies of the Islamic world to create division between the Islamic Republic of Iran and its neighborly countries."

The leader made the remarks at a meeting with state officials, foreign guests attending the unity week celebrations and others who visited him on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

"They (the enemies) do not want us to be united with other Muslim brethren because in that case they would not be able to bully them and impose their wishes," Ayatollah Khamene'i said. "The regional sheikhs should be vigilant against these conspiracies and satanic provocations and should distinguish their friends from their enemies and learn a lesson from the past events, such as the Iraqi imposed war against Iran," he stressed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the leader said today "full unity in the real sense of the word" existed among the Iranian nation today. "Our people are united despite the discord-sowing attempts of the enemies, and are moving in the direction of Islam, Qu'ran, and the sovereignty of the religion." He said in the Islamic Republic, various religious sects such as Shiite and Sunni, as well as different ethnic groups such as Arabs, Turks, Kurds or Turkomen were all united. "Our nation is a unique nation and a successful pattern for all Muslim nations and we owe this to Islam." Pointing to the conspiracies of the enemies to sow discord among the Iranian people, the leader said these attempts are made by relying on religious and ethnic differences among the nation. He then warned the people to be ever vigilant and stand against these conspiracies.

Underlining unity among the Islamic ummah, Ayatollah Khamene'i said if the heads of Islamic states give an elbowroom to their people and direct them towards Islamic international issues, they would attain unity of the kind the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni managed to create among the Iranian nation. "If this happens, the global enemies of Islam would not dare to put so much pressure and sanctions on a Muslim and oppressed nation like Bosnia-Hercegovina. The international organizations too, would not be able to simply overlook the crimes being committed against that wronged nation."

The leader of the Islamic Republic urged all Islamic states to get united and form an Islamic body. "The

formation of an Islamic bloc is essential and useful for all the Islamic states. All these states, either small or large, would benefit from such a measure and only the arrogant powers, such as the U.S. would be at a loss over such a unity. The Iranian nation is a strong nation and the Iranian government is a stable government...If we invite Muslims and Islamic states to unity it is for their own consolidation."

Before the leader's speech, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was among the visitors, regretted that "under the present sensitive juncture, we hear discord-sowing songs in our own region." He said despite an explicit declaration by the Iranian officials that their policies and [words indistinct], "we are witnessing divisive efforts and mischievous provocations aimed at creating disunity and differences between us and other Islamic states." "We hope that the officials in our neighborly states in the Persian Gulf and other Islamic states would respond positively to our unity-seeking call so that we could unitedly defend the Islamic ummah under conditions that Muslims are suffering in various parts of the world, such as Palestine, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Afghanistan, Caucasus, and Kashmir."

West Said 'Playing Up' Issue

NC1409200392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1650 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Western media are once again using current developments in the Persian Gulf, specifically the Iranian island of Abu Musa, to fabricate tension in an attempt to create divisions and rifts among the countries of the region. The escalation of media campaigns through presentation of illogical arguments reflects the influence of those seeking to maintain Western interests through divisions and tension in this part of the world.

The West is worried about the increasingly positive relations between Iran and the countries of the region, especially after the Persian Gulf war. As part of its independent policy, Muslim Iran has taken great strides in strengthening its bonds of friendship with the countries of the region during and after the war. This independent positive march has always aroused the sensitivities and fears of some Western countries. Experience has proven that these countries are quick to play on the fears of the states in the southern shore of the Persian Gulf periodically with a view toward intervening in the region.

The possibility of another Iraqi aggression against Kuwait helped the West make huge profits through several military and security agreements with Gulf countries. Playing on this sensitive issue has allowed the United States and the Western countries to hold military maneuvers in the region and to talk openly about maintaining their forces in the region for a long time.

Today, Washington and the Western countries are trying to repeat the same scenario by playing up a limited regional issue, such as that of the Iranian island of Abu Musa. They want to use the situation for their own interests, which explains the enthusiasm of U.S. President George Bush, who made it sound as though a third world war was about to break out. He said that the United States supports the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian said the United States is ready to help its friends in the Persian Gulf. Britain also showed surprising concern about the issue, announcing readiness to hold joint military exercises with the UAE in the Persian Gulf.

Some Arab countries, known for their close relations with the West and Israel, also have contributed to the scenario of escalating and creating this tense atmosphere.

All this media mess, and all these statements, implying threats as they do, revolve around a limited regional issue. This is going on despite the fact that Iran always says that regional problems and crises should be solved peacefully and within the principles of good neighborliness and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the region's states.

Aside from the climates of tension and escalation created by Washington and the West, our country, as it has been asserting for years, believes that the states of the region are able to solve their problems and differences without any foreign intervention. The Islamic Republic believes the region needs stability now more than ever before. This should be achieved in the shadow of the current positive climate of understanding between Iran and the other states of the region, with a view toward reaching solutions to the various problems and issues.

Daily: Government 'Ready To Retaliate'

NC1609084492 Paris AFP in English 0801 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept 16 (AFP)—Iran is ready to retaliate if the United Arab Emirates [UAE] keeps up its "hostile" attitude over the disputed Gulf island of Abu Musa, the TEHRAN TIMES warned Wednesday.

Iran and the UAE's emirate of al-Shariqah have shared the strategic island in the southern Gulf under an agreement concluded in 1971. But last month, the UAE accused Tehran of seizing the island, which Iran claims as its own.

The TEHRAN TIMES newspaper, which reflects Foreign Ministry thinking, said it was "most unwise to turn a minor issue that could easily be resolved in a friendly atmosphere into a regional crisis."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has described Monday's Arab League decision to back the UAE and to take the issue to the Security Council as "irresponsible."

Iran "has demonstrated that it can be as adamant in response to hostile gestures as it is constant in maintaining its friendly relations", the English-language daily said.

"The unjustified hostility of the al-Shariqah leaders would not remain unrequited" if the crisis got out of control, it said.

Dailies Cite 'Hegemonist Powers'

LD1609104692 Tehran IRNA in English 0850 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Two morning dailies Wednesday commented on the recent attitude adopted by certain Arab countries towards Iran on the Iranian island of 'Abu Musa'.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' urged the statesmen of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states to be vigilant towards hegemonist instigations of the U.S. and Britain.

In its editorial, the daily also pointed to the just-concluded visit of the Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin to Iran, and attached significance to it as "it can help improvement of Tehran-Ankara relations."

Common enemies of Iran and Turkey did not want to witness friendly relations between the two nations, said the article, adding that "arrogant powers are after creating tension in the region in order to fish in troubled waters."

The issue of the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the lesser and the greater [word indistinct], further revealed plots hatched by the U.S. and Britain for creating instability in the region, noted the editorial.

During the past 14 years since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has proved that it is for independence, dignity and prestige of its neighbours and has also exerted utmost efforts to preserve tranquility in the region, said the daily.

It warned the regional states to beware of the adverse consequences of the unwise decisions which might be imposed by the hegemonist powers and their enemies.

"The big powers intend to act as guardians of the regional sheikhs. If the sheikhs do not intend to be turned into an agent of the aliens to create tension in the region, they have a better choice—holding talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic—and thus halt foreign intervention," the daily concluded.

Commenting on the same subject, 'TEHRAN TIMES' said: "leaders of the sheikhdoms in the southern Persian Gulf are expected to exhibit greater acumen in their analysis of the international schemes, and not to allow the great world powers to use them as pawns in their games of political chess."

The Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated that it can be as adamant in its response to hostile gestures as it is constant in maintaining its friendly relationships, the paper added.

"Creation of a critical situation in this volatile region would have consequences whose extent and geographical dimensions would be hard to surmise, and the responsibility for those consequences would rest with the leaders of Sharjah," the editorial stressed.

It concluded by saying that the unjustified hostility of the Sharjah leaders would not remain unrequited, in case the crisis gets out of control. "Certainly it is most unwise to turn a minor issue that could easily be resolved in a friendly atmosphere, into a crisis to be manipulated by others."

Cooperation Accord With Turkey Condemns Terrorism

TA1509185892 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] An agreement on security and cooperation between Turkey and Iran was signed in Tehran today. The agreement, which Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin and Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi signed, condemns all types of terrorism, its methods, its sources, as well as its international dimension.

Accordingly, the sides reached agreement to guarantee the security of the Turkish-Iranian border and adopt the necessary measures, and conduct continuous and effective cooperation. In their own countries, Turkey and Iran will prevent the actions, which are considered criminal by that country, of terrorist organizations and of all opposition people and groups that engage in activities against the state structure, territorial integrity, and legal administration of the other country. To this end, a committee will be established in line with the 1932 agreement under the aegis of the two countries' Interior Ministries. The committee will hold its first meeting in Ankara in 15 days.

The sides, which will exchange information and experience in the field of security, will increase the measures aimed at stopping illegal crossings along the national borders. A high security committee, to be established by the two countries' officials on security cooperation, border security, cooperation in combating narcotics smuggling, and consulate affairs, will also meet as soon as possible.

The Iranian interior minister announced that his country is ready to develop relations with Turkey in every field. He said that agreement was reached with Turkey on implementing all the agreements signed between the two countries.

In turn, Sezgin remarked that cooperation based on the principles of noninterference in internal affairs and good-neighborliness will contribute to consolidating stability in the region as well as between both countries. Sezgin explained that the agreement reached with Iran will also mark the beginning of cooperation in the political, social, economic, commercial, financial, and cultural fields. After signing the agreement, Sezgin returned to Turkey.

MKO Warns Ankara Against Strengthening Ties

NC1409150892 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 14 (AFP) - Iran's main armed opposition group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO], on Monday warned Ankara that boosting ties with Iran to fight insurgency would endanger the lives of opposition members in Turkey,

Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin said earlier the same day in Tehran that Turkey would prevent terrorist attacks against Iran launched from its territory. But he stressed Ankara could not stop Iranian opposition groups from carrying out political activity in Turkey.

The head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, Mas'ud Rajavi, expressed regret over the interior minister's remarks in a message to Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

"The Khomeyni (Iran) regime has had a free rein to carry out terrorist activities in Turkey within the past years and has never been prosecuted in this regard," said the statement received by AFP in Nicosia. "Such agreements (between Iran and Turkey) would only endanger the lives of Iranians who have sought refuge" in Turkey, the statement added. It accused the Iranian authorities of killing and kidnapping opposition members in Turkey and warned Ankara would be held responsible for the safety of Iranian exiles.

Tajik President Seeks Further Expansion of Ties

LD1409223192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The acting president of Tajikistan asked for further expansion of friendly and fraternal relations between Iran and Tajikistan. This afternoon, Akbarsho Iskandarov, during a meeting in Dushanbe with the Foreign Ministry's research affairs deputy, stated the above and thanked the Iranian authorities for the favor they show toward Tajikistan.

After the meeting, he told reporters that there have been some talks about signing agreements in various fields.

During the same meeting, Deputy Foreign Minister Maleki conveyed Hashemi-Rafsanjani's and other officials' greetings to Iskandarov on the anniversary of Tajikistan's independence

China To Supply Military, Nuclear Power Equipment

PM1409095692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Amir Tahiri report: "China Signs Agreement To Supply Iran With Military, Nuclear Equipment"]

[Excerpts] London— According to reports received from Beijing yesterday, China has agreed to help Iran in strengthening and expanding its Armed Forces under a "strategic agreement" worth billions of dollars.

Negotiations regarding the agreement took months. It was finally signed yesterday after further intensive talks between Iranian and Chinese senior officials.

Under the agreement, China will sell Iran nuclear technology and participate in building no less than four nuclear power stations and one center for advanced nuclear research.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani headed the Iranian delegation to Beijing. [passage omitted]

The sources of these reports did not give details of the equipment China agreed to supply Iran. It is believed that the Iranian arms purchase team will remain in Beijing for a few more days to draw up the timetables for delivering the arms and programs for training Iranians.

The sources say that Iranian Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli is now in Beijing to sign the "necessary financial arrangements."

One of the most important provisions of the agreement is that China will supply Iran with 100-150 Soviet-designed fighter bombers that will reinforce the Iranian Air Force, which now has no more than 60-70 serviceable aircraft. [passage omitted]

China has agreed to accept Iranian crude oil in payment for "a major part" of the armament costs, according to these sources, which is very suitable for Iran, which has liquidity problems and is suffering due to a drop in purchasing power of its oil revenues.

Chinese and Iranian sources yesterday confirmed that cooperation between both countries in the nuclear fields will he confined to "peaceful purposes." [passage omitted]

Agreement Signed To Develop South Pars Gas Field

LD1509175892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC], on today's auspicious birthday of the prophet of Islam, signed an agreement with a consortium consisting of Italy's Saiestem and TPL [Tecnipetrol], Japan's Mitsubishi, and Russian's Machine-Import.

The agreement, totaling $1.710 billion, plus 26 billion rials, concerns developing and exploiting deposits at the South Pars gas field. These companies, together with European and Japanese banks, are to finance the amount of the agreement. The repayment will be effeced through sales of liquid gas produced by this field. Once the field goes on line—in four years, according to the agreement—the country's daily gas output will rise to 1 billion cubic feet and output of liquefied gas to 50,000 barrels.

According to the agreement, 18 gas wells will be drilled. Six off-shore platforms, two underwater gas pipelines

together with related installations, and a gas sweetening plant on shore will also be set up.

NIOC will supervise all operational and experimental activities as well as operations to bring the gas field on line. NIOC will also supervise the production stage.

Guardians Council Examines Multinational Bills

LD1409211492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Today, the Guardians Council examined two bills about an international agreement concerning roads between Iran, Greece, and Italy; a bill concerning a cultural, scientific, and technical agreement between Iran and Madagascar, approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly; as well as a charter for the Center for Remote Testing [markaz-e sanjesh az dur], which the cabinet approved. The charter as well as the bills were not deemed to contravene religious laws and the Constitution.

West's Reasons for 'No-Fly' Zone Questioned

NC1509065092 Tehran ABRAR (International Weekly) in English 3 Sep 92 p 12

[Editorial: "A Look At Iraq's Partition"]

[Text] The division of Iraq is another part of Western strategy to confront the spread of Islam in the world, and the imposition of its so-called New World Order. The West, and particularly the US, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, has been attempting to consolidate its power and stabilize its presence and influence in the Persian Gulf region. This region has over 65 percent of the world oil resources, and its population is Muslim. The US is worried about the possibility of unity among these Muslims.

While Islam is spreading and growing throughout the region, the West in order to gain control over the vital energy resources has adopted policies like arms control, and conclusion of military, economic and social covenants with many Persian Gulf countries. Nevertheless, it still faces a threat from the Muslims.

Today the West is hypocritically showing its sympathy with the Iraqi nation, which has suffered for years under the tyrannous rule of Saddam Husayn, this pawn of the Western powers. It has designed the idea of a "no fly" or safe zone in southern Iraq, to protect Iraq Shiites!

However, behind this humanitarian facade, is hidden the real evil intention of the West in dividing Iraq into three parts, i.e. the Shiite south, the Kurd north, and the Sunni center. However the Iraqi nation is one integrated whole, and cannot be divided in this manner with clear, specific lines. The only way this policy can be implemented is through the traditional colonial idea of "divide and rule." This policy was implemented by colonialists in early 20th century to divide Muslim countries. It led to the unnatural and destructive division of the Islamic world into small, tattered pieces, and ultimately the creation of the cancerous state of Israel in the heart of the Islamic world.

At present, the U.S. is trying to establish its New World Order (which translated into normal language means the usual imperial domination) in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. The aim of this strategy is to protect and stabilize Israel, gain control over the region's oil resources. America wants to involve the regional countries in their own petty ethnic, territorial and religious conflicts, in order to shield Israel.

The existence and lack of existence of specified borders during the past few decades has led to several wars among neighboring countries. The West has used this to its own advantage, to solidify its domination. The creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its appearance on the international scene, however, led to the upsetting of all regional balances, and Iraq in order to fight Islamic Iran, launched an aggression against it with the latest weapons. But the later Iraqi attack on Kuwait was a danger to Western interests in the region. Now, after the Persian Gulf crisis, Iraq has succeeded in maintaining its military power, putting the US in a serious dilemma. Weakening of Saddam and Iraq's military creates a power vacuum in the region, which cannot be filled except by Iran's presence. Therefore, while Iraq has to be deprived of its aggressive power, its ability to resist its neighbor should be preserved. At present Saddam is the only one who can provide Western interests in the region. However Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the launching of several Scud missiles against Israel, proved that there is always a danger from Saddam. Thus the best way to control Iraq is, first to weaken its internal forces, and second bring its modern arms arsenal under control. The West is following these two aims. International weapons inspectors continuously tour and control Iraq's modern weapons; and the creation of a "no fly" zone in southern Iraq, which would lead to division of the country into three areas, is part of the Western policy of weakening Iraq's national security and territorial unity.

But why southern Iraq?

Southern Iraq is one of the richest regions in terms of oil and mineral resources. Moreover it neighbors Kuwait, Iran and Saudi Arabia, and is of great importance in the region. The West has many aims in creating the security zone in southern Iraq: 1) To prevent overflights in the region by Iraqi warplanes. 2) To create a security belt for neighboring countries, because Iraq still persists in its territorial claims, particularly against Kuwait's oil-rich border zones, and it is necessary for Western forces to be present to protect these resources, and to ensure free flow of oil to the West. 3) The West is severely worried about the coming to power of an Islamic government in Iraq. The Shiites withstood about 18 months of barbarity and atrocity by Saddam's murderous forces against the Shiites, without any foreign help. So why all this sympathy

at this time? Possibly because this sensitive region may fall into the hands of a Shiite government.

The West knows that the Shiites share common religious values with Iran, as well as ethnic ties, and in case of downfall of Saddam and coming to power of Shiites, there would be very close cooperation between them and Iran. Thus, the West is already making its contingency plans against such a possibility. 4) Attracting world public attention: On the eve of the US presidential elections, Bush in order to increase his popularity ratings, has adopted a hypocritical humanitarian attitude towards the Shiites! Through its presence in the region, the West wants to prevent an excessive massacre of Muslims, and thus show to the world its love of humanity! In fact strengthening positive public feelings is one of the basic pillars of the New World Order policy, to portray America in a positive light.

So far, all Arab countries including Egypt, the Saudis, Syria, Jordan, Bahrain and others have severely opposed the creation of a safe zone in south Iraq which might lead to the division of the country. This is because they know that Iraq's division is a preface for the partition of other countries of the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been a pioneer in the defense of the rights of the oppressed and deprived people everywhere, opposed the plan for creation of a safe haven for Kurds in north Iraq from the very beginning, and called for the territorial unity of Iraq. Iran believes that Western efforts are basically selfish, and their sole aim is weakening of the country.

Turkey, which throughout the Persian Gulf crisis, was a U.S. military base in the region, has no choice but to oppose the division of Iraq, because it threatens its own territorial integrity. Turkey has for years been involved in a struggle with independence-seeking Kurds in southeast Turkey. As the idea of the creation of a single, independent Kurdistan is realized, it will be a serious threat to Turkey itself, and Turkey's division is not in the interests of the West.

What is certain is that if Saddam remains in power, Iraq will certainly be divided and disintegrated, and the presence of Western military forces in the region will be strengthened. The Muslims of the region should be aware fully of this reality. They should oppose vociferously the results of the recent meeting of certain Iraqi opposition groups, which do not really represent the combatant and Muslim people of Iraq. The threat of disintegration confronts other regional countries after Iraq.

If the Western countries are really concerned about the Shiites of Iraq, they should agree to the dispatch of an international force by the UN secretary-general, to prevent further massacre of these Muslims. Today the innocent Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, in the heart of the so-called civilized Europe, are subject to the most barbarous atrocities. Are not the Bosnian Muslims ethnically and geographically closer to the West than the Shiites of south Iraq? In short, the plan to create a security zone in south Iraq is a preface to the complete disintegration of a Muslim country, and a serious threat and danger for the entire region.

Prophet Muhammad, Sadeq Birthdays Marked

Khamene'i Exhorts Muslims to Unity

LD1509160492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1008 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the revolution, marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad and of Ja'far Sadeq, the sixth Shiite imam, marking Unity Week in Tehran on 15 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [crowd chants: "Death to America," "Death to Israel"] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I, too, would like to convey my greetings to all the world's Muslims, justice seekers, and especially to the great Iranian nation. I also greet the martyrs' families and you here on this auspicious day to celebrate the birthday of a blessed and precious human being: the noble prophet of Islam, His Holiness Mohammad Ibn-'Abdollah, peace be upon him and his scion. We also celebrate his son's, Imam Sadiq, peace be upon him, blessed birthday.

The noble prophet of Islam's birthday is a day for pondering the endless blessings arising from his existence, perhaps the greatest blessing of which was the gift of monotheism and justice to human communities. [passage omitted] He called us to piety, to abstinence, to discard thoughts of discord between people based on such things as ethnic origin, race, blood, color, and so on. As you can see today, in the world's advanced countries, countries that are materialistically advanced, still have problems between blacks and whites. Black people observe certain boundaries [hodudi darand]; whites observe certain boundaries. There is still a race war, a blood feud, ethnic feuds.

Countless people have been and continue to be the victims of ethnic and contrived national feuds. People are killed; their rights are infringed; they are made homeless. Today, too, humanity needs to rally round the cry for unity and the cry for monotheism, as well as the cry for justice, the standard bearer for which is Islam and the Muslims. Who opposes this? Those power holders who exploit divisions, disbelief [sherk], the absence of justice and whose whole life and existence is based on discrimination.

Today, the big materialist potentates of the world—those same people who constantly harp on democracy in their own countries and who make claims of being democratic and respecting equal rights for everyone and who, in words, that is, not in deeds, oppose the tyranny of governments—have destroyed democracy in many parts of the world. They give preference to one nation against

another; give preference to one region against another; and give one blood preference against another.

They imposed their despotic rule over the world in order to do with the world what they wish. This is the situation of the mankind today. And we see today how mankind is in need of the message of the prophet of Islam, which is about the issues of Tawhid and justice among human beings.

We, the Iranian nation, have named this week Unity Week. Our honorable imam [Khomeyni], God's blessings be upon him, who always proclaimed unity among Muslims, pointed the issue of unity not only to the entire world of Muslims but also to all justice-seeking people of the world during this week. [passage omitted]

The enemies intend to ambush this unity, this precious unity that helped you achieve so much success. You must be vigilant. You should not allow differences to occur. You should guard where there is ground for differences, to which the enemy can cling, in order to create discord. Both Shiites and Sunnis should be vigilant about the issue of religion, and religious differences in particular, which the enemies have taken advantage of for centuries.

You should be more aware and careful about the issue of sects. The enemies are waiting and crouching ready to pounce on the issue of different sects among Iranians who have lived side by side throughout history. They intend to create discord among them. Those are issues that the enemy has tried to take advantage of. We should guard against them. The enemy wants the annihilation of Iran; the enemy wants the annihilation of Iran's solidarity and territorial integrity; the enemy wants the flag of Islam not to fly over the head of this nation; the enemy wants its agents and stooges, like the former regime, to rule this country. Of course, the world-devouring enemies are not prepared to see, in such a sensitive region of the world, an independent country that relies on itself and believes in God and has confidence in Islam—particularly a country whose nation feels so proud and sympathetic towards other Muslims.

The would-be Bosnian assassins and their supporters saw the day you staged such a huge rally in Tehran's streets and other cities in support of the Bosnian people. Do you not think they were angry seeing how decisively the Iranian nation is standing on an international issue?

There is a saying: Whoever wakes up in the morning and does not care about Muslims' affairs cannot be considered a true Muslim. [preceding sentence in Arabic] There are those who care for Muslims, wherever Muslims may be—even in Europe—for a nation that the Iranian nation does identify with. Do our people not know whom the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina are or who the people of Sarajevo are? Or what kind of people they are? Or what kind of feelings they have? What connection have we had so far with Bosnia-Hercegovina? The only connection is Islam and Islamic feeling. The feeling that a Muslim nation is under oppression.

That is what moves our people. That is what makes our people care for them. If it is necessary for them to come out on to the streets, they do so in millions. If it is necessary for them to help and give money, they pay money into funds and help. If ever anything else is necessary in support of our Muslim brothers, our nation comes out and stands ready. [crowd chants: "Death to America," "Death to Britain," "Death to Israel"]

This is an example of a nation that believes in Islamic unity, Islamic fraternity, and Islamic kinship. See what would happen in the world if all the Muslim nations were like this to each other. This is Islamic unity. Above unity among the people in a country comes unity among Islamic peoples. See what would happen in the world if the heads of state in all the Islamic countries would give their nations the chance to express their feelings about international Islamic issues and guide them so that they would become like the Iranian nation.

Do you think if there were such a unity, solidarity, and collaboration between Muslim nations the enemy would dare besiege Muslims, like the poor, oppressed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina? Would the international bodies dare whitewash the issue with words and talk. See what a strange incident is taking place in the world. All the claims of supporting human rights are forgotten when it comes to Muslims. What kind of enmity is it that the enemies and world powers have toward Islam? What sort of crusade is it that they have waged against Islam and Muslims today, the signs of which are seen everywhere? What is the reason behind all the oppression that, wherever they can, the enemies subject Muslims to all over the world? It is because there is disunity among Muslims and Islamic government. And this disunity is the work of the enemy. There is no conflict of interests between Muslims countries. An Islamic community and an Islamic bloc would be good for everybody, not just for a particular group. Big Islamic countries would also benefit from an Islamic bloc. And so would weak and small and poor countries. It would be beneficial to everybody. So who would it be harmful to? Who would lose out from an Islamic community? Those powers that wish to impose their corrupt intentions on Muslim nations, the big powers, America, colonialistic policies. [crowd repeats: "Death to America"]

Since the beginning of the revolution we have called on other Muslim countries, Muslim countries in the region and smaller ones to unite. We have not said we should unite so that we in Iran could benefit from that unity. If we have constantly tried to preserve our fraternity and friendship with other Islamic governments it is not because the Iranian Government or the Iranian nation has a particular need for that unity. No, it is so that all the world of Islam could benefit. The Iranian nation is a powerful nation. The Iranian government is a strong government, because it relies on its nation. You, the Muslim world, saw how it was in the war imposed by Iraq on us. You saw how we behaved. You saw how our nation acted. We are not afraid of enemy invasions. Who could say that during the eight years that Iraq was

fighting us America was not behind it, that NATO was not behind it? All the facts are becoming clear now. They gave Iraq arms, money, war plans, satellite intelligence. They spied and did everything for Iraq.

The Arab governments of the Persian Gulf region were all afraid of Iraq and were helping it. They were all helping. Who can deny this? Which government in the region can claim that it did not help Iraq during the eight-year war? What was the outcome? Did the Iranian nation retreat even one step? Did the Iranian nation demonstrate weakness? Did the leader of Iran [Khomeyni], who stood against the rest of the world like a mountain, feel frightened? Did the acts of hostility not increase sincerity among the state officials? We are not afraid of an enemy attack. [crowd shouts approval, chants]

We talk of unity to benefit you, our Arab neighbors, other governments and nations, and the world of Islam. This is the meaning of unity.

Today you hear that once again they have raised a hue and cry in the Persian Gulf. Excuses! [words indistinct] in the name of Abu Musa Island and other similar remarks. What is the objective of these remarks? Who is behind them? Who can fail to see the hand of yesterday's colonialists, the same evil hands, behind this affair? Who can fail to see the hand of the forces present in the Persian Gulf, the hand of America, the hand of the decrepit and sinister colonialist; that is, the British Government? What do they want? Why do they wish to create discord among neighbors? Why do they wish to turn brothers into enemies facing each other, just to justify their presence in the Persian Gulf? If these Muslim countries were to unite, they would turn into a clenched fist, against which the enemy would dare not stand and carry on its bullying. Why do they wish to destroy this unity and open the clenched fist? Who is behind this? It is obvious the foreign hands are involved.

We think if the shaykhs of the region are to be blamed at all for this matters, they should be blamed for neglecting the facts. They too wish to see unity and solidarity. Our recommendation to the governments of the Persian Gulf and neighbors is that they should see their enemy, recognize their enemy, understand his tricks and read his hand. They should know who wishes to create discord in this region. Such a discord would harm them more.

You saw the events that took place in the region two or three years ago. You saw what was the outcome of assisting Iraq. You saw how the mighty presence of America, Britain, and others in this region led to humiliation of the region and the governments south of the Persian Gulf. The humiliation is still continuing, the humiliation of nations.

The cure for all these is unity. Otherwise, the Iranian Government is not afraid of anything. The Iranian nation is not frightened of anything. We were born in a revolution, moved ahead with the revolution, and grew in the face of hostilities. It is not possible to be more hostile than the hostility the world has adopted against us up to today. Which nation has been subjected to so much hostility? Nevertheless, the Iranian nation remained, the revolution survived, as did the Islamic republic; and it is going to survive for ever, with divine help. [crowd shouts approval]

This was the message of Islamic unity, which will give honor and peace of mind to all of us. This is our wish. We wish that the one billion Muslims will really unite as a single mass. I am not saying the borders and governments should not exist. Such a thing would not happen anyway, not before the advent of the Lord of the Age, may our souls be sacrficed for him. We only wish the Muslim nations and Muslim governments to move in the same direction, wholeheartedly and with the same morale. This will give them honor and might. And honor and might will come under the banner of Islam and solidarity and unity of you, the nation of Iran. And honor and might will come under the banner of piety and adherence to the Koran. And honor and might comes from not being afraid of anyone but God. If we observe this, God Almighty will support us whether the others support us or not. We shall continue this path with divine help, and we know Almighty God is with us. [passage omitted]

President Remarks on Gulf Islands

LD1509140592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Speech by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad and of Ja'far Sadeq, the sixth Shiite imam, on the occasion of Unity Week in Tehran on 15 September—recorded]

[Text] [crowd chants: "We are all your soldiers, Khamene'i," "We await your orders, Khamene'i"] Please sit down. Thank you very much—please sit down. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Praise be to God and peace be upon you. We congratulate the Islamic ummah on the joyous birth anniversary of the blessed Prophet—last of the prophets—and on Unity Week. On behalf of those present and our esteemed people, we express our congratulations and condolences to the eminent leader of the revolution marking this great day. We honor the memory of our late imam and our esteemed and noble martyrs, and we miss them.

This week, all the media and the country all over resounded with the message of unity and harmony in the world of Islam to confront the difficulties and issues faced by the world of Islam and to prevent unwanted incidents. And it is necessary for us today to follow this blessed path that is the only means of achieving the well-being of the world of Islam. Unfortunately, under present circumstances we are hearing disheartening and discord-sowing voices in our own region. In spite of the fact that Iran quickly announced that our policy toward the Persian Gulf region and the [Gulf] islands has not changed and is the same as always; and that we

strengthened control [previous word in English] and supervision merely to control conditions in view of sensitive circumstances; and to prevent seditious incidents of which there have been many signs, we still see that, unfortunately, there are some developments that, from our point of view, only secure the desires of expansionists, aggressors, and those who are not any of our friends in the region and who only care for their own interests here. And those who have embarked on incitement and seditious deeds along this path, either knowingly or not, are carrying out the desires of those same expansionists, or their instructions.

But we hope that the Islamic ummah, officials of neighboring and regional countries and further away, at the end of this Unity Week will respond to the call for unity of the Islamic ummah under circumstances when our Muslims are under pressure all over the world. Our Palestine is on the point of slipping away and is under greater pressure; our Bosnia-Hercegovina is sustaining such tyranny; the Caucasus is caught up in disturbances and insecurity. Afghanistan has so many problems. Kashmir has problems, and the seeds of sedition are sprouting in Asia Minor. Under such circumstances, we need unity and cooperation. God willing, we hope that, as a gift to our own people and to the Islamic ummah, we will, all of us, cooperate, consciously, to defend the world of Islam's interests.

We are all waiting to benefit from the guidelines of our eminent and learned leader [Khamene'i]. God's peace and mercy be upon you. [crowd chants: "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America"]

Naterq-Nuri Calls For 'Firm' Unity

LD1409095892 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 13, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today called for firm unity among world Muslims to enable them to confront plots of the hegemonist powers.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the unity seminar, marking the birth anniversary celebrations of the almighty's final messenger to mankind, Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him), he described global arrogance as a major element involved in the creation of disparity among Muslims throughout the globe.

He pointed to the variety of plots hatched by global hegemony to dismember Muslim countries, such as those underway by the U.S. to divide Iraq and other states, and stressed that such unity gatherings should find solutions to the problems facing the Muslim ummah.

As an example he referred to the recent malicious propaganda of some Arab states over Abu Musa island and said: "In reality, nothing has happened that made Arab countries to make such a fuss. In fact, this is nought but a plot masterminded by the U.S. and (George) Bush's administration to boost his chances for the forthcoming elections."

The three-day 5th international unity seminar, opened at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel this morning, with 300 Iranian and other Muslim scholars in attendance.

IRGC Assembly Convenes in Tehran 16 Sep

LD1609141992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Marking the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's decree [farman] on establishing the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' [IRGC] three forces, the IRGC commanders' and officials' fifth national assembly convened today, with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani present, at the IRGC's General Staff Command in Tehran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohamadi Golpayegani—chief of the cabinet to the exalted leader and the leader's IRGC representative—and 3,000 IRGC commanders of various ranks were present.

During his address, stressing the IRGC's preparedness to confront all of global arrogance's plots, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the IRGC's role during the imposed war as well as during the era of reconstruction.

Referring to plots that were hatched from the very beginning to defeat the Islamic revolution in Iran and the IRGC's role in neutralizing most of those plots, the president said: Global arrogance expected Iran to collapse under the weight of economic difficulties soon after the end of the imposed war. We managed, however, to leave behind the economic dangers during that period. Last year we achieved an unprecedented gross domestic product rate of 10 percent. Meanwhile, the budget deficit has been managed in a reasonable way while runaway liquidity coupled with a shortage of goods has been harnessed. Illiteracy has also been reduced. Even regarding high prices—a topic that is often raised by speakers and writers—the position in our country is better than many others, including those that we recently visited.

The president added: In the Third World and among developing countries, we chose the correct path for development; we are also implementing a suitable policy. Those who worry about development during the next 10 years are intent on putting serious obstacles in our way. To overcome these obstacles, the people, the defense forces, and the IRGC must be prepared in a serious manner.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the reflection of Iran's Islamic revolution among Muslims of other countries is good and positive.

Referring to problems raised about Abu Musa island, he said: It is with the intention of preventing our country from achieving development that they are hatching plots to create nuisances for Iran. So we must be fully on guard against such plots.

During his address, the president said that the government will help the IRGC personnel's living standards, including housing assistance.

In continuation of the IRGC's fifth national assembly, Major General Mohsen Reza'i, IRGC commander in chief, said the main objective of the assembly is to maintain combat readiness at all levels. He also stressed the importance of training personnel and said promotion from within the force will depend on personnel successfully passing various training courses.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Razini, Khamene'i's IRGC deputy representative, spoke about ideological, political, and military training. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Qara'ti also spoke about improved methods of giving daily prayers.

The IRGC national assembly will last for two days.

Ministry Invests $2 Billion in Mining Industry

LD1409090192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The Ministry of Mines and Metals invested $2 billion in Yazd Province in order to expedite exploitation of the 1.77 million tonnes of discovered mining resources in the province.

The majority of the investment was made in constructing the Chador Malu iron ore mines; constructing the zinc smelting factory; producing steel and ferrous alloys; and the Bafq iron ore projects. Those projects will reach production stage during the next two years.

Minister of Mines and Metals Mahlujchi welcomed this news and said: Apart from equipping and exploiting a number of huge mines in Yazd Province, which will contribute toward the country's gross capital, all government and private sector facilities have been mobilized to speed up the exploitation of another 27 mines with the use of new techniques, such as seam cutting.

He also said: The speedy provision of gas and water supplies to the province can further activate mining-related industries.

About the same issue Mahlujchi announced that the Mobarakeh Steel Complex, which belongs to that ministry, signed a contract undertaking to supply the needed steel sheet for 385 kms of water pipes for transfering waters of the Zayandeh Rud to Yazd. He added: Such an undertaking is unprecedented in the country's steel industries.

Tabriz Color Television Center Commissioned

LD1209092392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Excerpts] On the second day of Unity Week, the Voice and Vision's Tabriz center color broadcasting system was commissioned with Mr. Hashemi, the Voice and Vision chief, present. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Hashemi described the organization's projects to expand radio and television networks in the country. He said: At present, 85 percent of the country receives television programs, and 100 percent receives radio programs. Hopefully, thanks to projects being implemented, all the country will soon receive the the first and second television networks.

Referring to the cultural onslaught of world arrogance, he described the role of Voice and Vision in the fight against this onslaught. He said: Today, the Voice and vision is on the front line of the battle against world arrogance. To that end, the Voice and Vision organization is attempting to seriously combat this onslaught by utilizing advance equipment and the talents of the youth of this country.

Ground Satellite Station Becomes Operational

LD1409205492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Simultaneously with Unity Week and marking the joyous occasion of the birthday of the esteemed holy prophet of Islam—peace be upon him and his scion—the ground satellite station of Ghalajeh Village in the province of Ilam became operational following a ceremony.

According to the Central News Unit, this 10-watt station will bring the first and second programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to a region that has a population of 15,000 spread over 18 villages, in Ilam province.

Mr. Jabal'ameli, Majles deputy and the official in charge of the Voice and Vision's provincial affairs, told our reporter: The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran is now reaching 96 percent of the country's population, and the first and second program of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran are reaching, respectively, 83 and 76 percent of the population.

* Efforts To Oust Rafsanjani From Voice, Vision

92AS1481N London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Aug 92 p 12

[Text] After the Fourth Majles was formed, one of the most acute problems occupying the attention of political circles in Iran was reshuffling the cabinet. Along with Mohammad Khatami, the minister of Islamic guidance, who voluntarily resigned because he was unable to continue due to pressure from Qom seminary, several other cabinet ministers were also about to be dismissed and replaced by other ministers.

Some Majles deputies also spoke of the necessity to dismiss some ministers, who, according to them, work "weakly." There was talk of having Mostafa Mo'in, minister of sciences and higher education and Mohammad Gharazi, minister of post and telegraph,

step aside and make room for others. The Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Metals were also to have been consolidated and placed under the supervision of one minister, to facilitate communication and coordination between this part of the economy and the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs.

However, at the Tehran Friday prayers service after Khatami's resignation Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he would continue working with the same group until the end of his term as president of the Republic, and this was apparently seen as the end of the struggle over reshuffling the cabinet. The struggle began because Hashemi-Rafsanjani wanted to dismiss some of the ministers on his cabinet with whom he did not have good relations. The supporters of the endangered ministers threatened that if this happened they would use legal means inside and outside the Majles to increase the pressure to expel some of the ministers Hashemi-Rafsanjani supports, but in the end both sides decided it was better to declare a hasty tactical cease fire.

Despite all this, Rafsanjani's rivals are still working to take over as many positions of power as possible. This time the target is not the cabinet ministers, but Mohammad Hashemi, the full-blood brother of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and chief of the Radio and Television Organization of the Islamic Republic. Those who favor fighting back against the cultural "invasion" do not think that the Radio and Television Supervision Council, to which several new members have also been added recently, is adequate to implement the policy of cultural purification, and they believe that after taking the Ministry of Islamic Guidance out of the hands of those who support an open cultural atmosphere, now all efforts must be directed at getting Rafsanjani out of the Radio and Television Organization.

It is said that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, seriously advised his brother Mohammad to take steps quickly not to bite the hands of his opponents, and that this advice was not without effect in making the radio and television programs less distasteful.

* People, Forces Clash in Baftabad

92AS1481F London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] In clashes that took place between the people and the police in the Baftabad District of Tehran, a number of demonstrators were injured and more were arrested. The incident began on Wednesday evening 21 Mordad [12 Aug] when the police were about to parade two individuals in the street for "doing prohibited things." The people were angered by this and tried to take these two individuals away from the police.

The European office of the Millat Party of Iran, which published this report, adds that about 2000 on Wednesday, almost 2,000 angry demonstrators moved in the direction of the Baftabad police office and tried to occupy it. According to this report, when the demonstrators gathered around the Baftabad police station, the security forces fired in desperation on the people and shot down a number of them.

During the clash many of the people were detained by the police forces. Likewise, according to reports received, after 2300 on Wednesday hundreds of reinforcements from the Islamic Republic came to the Baftabad area and occupied the area.

On the other hand, it is reported that as of Thursday morning 22 Mordad [13 Aug], widespread arrests and detentions began taking place in the Baftabad part of Tehran, and agents from the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Intelligence and Security arrested tens of the residents of this area in their homes and took them to the prisons of the "joint committee" at Tupkhaneh Square and to Evin Prison.

There were reports from the hospitals in the vicinity of the Baftabad area of Tehran that a number of people wounded in the Wednesday evening incident were transferred to these hospitals with visible bullet wounds.

On Friday and Saturday 23 and 24 Bamdad [14 and 15 Aug] the Islamic Republic's police forces were extensively deployed in the streets of the Baftabad area of Tehran and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The same source also reports that on 21 and 22 Mordad, individuals belonging to the Mellat Party of Iran Youth Organization were distributing leaflets in opposition to the government of the Islamic Republic in several parts of Tehran.

* Minister on Confronting Opposition Abroad

92AS1498A London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Sep 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] On Saturday 8 Shahrivar, 30 August, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fellahiyan, the regime's minister of security, said at a news conference in Tehran that the Islamic Republic's security agents outside the country had delivered "decisive blows" against the counterrevolutionary minigroups. He added that our intelligence and security agents are quite persistent and active, and they are pursuing the members of the various minigroups opposed to the government.

He did not discuss the details and the nature of the blows the regime's secret security agents have delivered against the opponents of the Islamic Republic. So far, tens of the regime's opponents outside the country have been killed. The number of these assassinations has increased dramatically since Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected president of the Republic.

Fellahiyan added that recently spies who worked for Turkey, America, and several Arab countries were arrested in Iran and turned over to the judicial authorities, but in this regard he also refrained from giving any kind of information about their numbers, the nature of

their activities, or the dates of their arrests. Fellahiyan claimed that the Islamic Republic's security organizations "have penetrated at the highest levels in the leadership of the nations that spy against Iran." In this regard also, the regime's minister of intelligence gave no additional information.

Fellahiyan disclosed that his agents have hit hard the leadership cadre of the Kurdish parties active in Iranian Kordestan. He said that last year five tons of antiregime circulars were confiscated from dissident Kurds.

* Former Minister Given Advisory Post

92AS1498F London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Sep 92 p 2

[Text] Mohammad Khatami, the former minister of culture and Islamic guidance, who resigned from his post because of cultural strangulation, has become consultant to the president of the republic and chief of the National Library.

Morteza Alviri, a deputy in the Third Majles, has also become consultant to the president of the Republic on the affairs of the free trade and industrial regions, as well as secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade and Industrial Regions.

Likewise, Morteza Mirbaqeri became secretary of the Supreme Youth Council, which has recently been established.

* Karrubi Accused of Misuse of Millions

92AS1498B London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] In a letter written to 'Ali Khamene'i, "leader" of the Islamic Republic, by "officials and families of the Martyr Foundation of the Islamic revolution in Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad, and Shiraz, of which a photocopy has reached KEYHAN, Mehdi Karrubi is accused of misusing millions of dollars and marks. Mehdi Karrubi, former speaker of the Majles, was dismissed several weeks ago as supervisor of the Martyr Foundation, a position he held during Khomeyni's time.

This letter asked Khamene'i to appoint a panel to investigate the financial files of the Martyr Foundation, "so that it will be clarified for the families of martyrs that Martyr Foundation officials are responsible for pouring millions of marks and dollars of the Martyr Foundation's capital into private European and American accounts.

The signatories to the letter also want to know:

- What revenues paid for the participation and private investment of Mr. Karrubi and his associates in foreign countries
- Which official was responsible for the financial abuses that took place in the Martyr Foundation's foreign dealings
- What welfare measures for the families of martyrs were taken with the revenues from the sale of the Martyr Foundation's assets
- What will be the final disposition of the Martyr Foundation's assets, which were taken during Karrubi's time by his affiliates and acquaintances.

The letter states that these abuses caused the people to lose confidence in the nation's "executive officials."

* Rohani's Memorial Service for Ayatollah Kho'i

92AS1481E London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] On the occasion of the death of the source of emulation of the Shiites of the world, His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Haj Seyyed 'Abol-Qasem Kho'i, a memorial service was held was held at the home of Ayatollah Seyyed Mehdi Rohani in Paris. At this gathering, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hoseyn Fatvat discussed the moral virtues and qualities of Ayatollah Kho'i. He said: "He never mixed religion with politics." Concerning the question of why Ayatollah Kho'i was opposed to the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Fatvat said: "While he was speaker of the Majles, this very Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani used insulting and indecent language to attack the dignity of the great source of emulation of the Shiites of the world, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Kho'i, and unfortunately the regime's other leaders not only did not protest, they all kept silent. Today, however, it is truly surprising that they are announcing a three-day mourning period and Mr. Khamene'i is offering condolences to the Shiites of the world on his death."

Pakistan

Hundreds of Afghan Sikhs, Hindus Deported

BK0509131392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Sep 92 p 12

[From Karim Khan and Saeed Zaman Afridi]

[Text] Peshawar—In an unprecedented move the government of Pakistan deported hundreds of Afghan Sikhs who had crossed over into Pakistan without having valid travelling documents and visas.

This is for the first time during the past 14 years that Afghans have been deported. Pakistan has generously been providing asylum to millions of Afghans over the years. It was on the August 27 that the government of Pakistan announced to seal its border with Afghanistan to block the entry of those Afghans fleeing due to the infighting in Kabul.

On Thursday the Pakistani authorities deported 200 Hindus and Sikhs followed by 20 on Friday. The deportees were arrested at various parts of Punjab for not having valid travelling documents.

The Punjab Police handed over the non-Muslim Afghans to Frontier Police who consequently delivered them to Political Authorities for deporting them across the Pak-Afghan border at Towrkham.

It was learnt through reliable sources that around 305 other Hindus and Sikhs have been arrested so far in Punjab for not possessing the required documents.

While talking to THE NEWS 'Guizar Khan, Home Secretary of the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] government confirmed the deportation of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus. He said that government's policy about them was clear.

These non-Muslim Sikhs and Hindus, he said, were required to have valid passports and visas. He said the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] was obtaining Indian visas for those who were in possession of passport adding that those who had no valid document could not be left stranded in Pakistan.

Paper Advocates Neutrality in Iran-Arab Ties

BK1609105792 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 16 Sep 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Defence Pact With Iran"]

[Text] Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Pakistan has been interpreted as a foreign policy success. There is a general agreement that Pakistan's current policy on Afghanistan and domestic sectarianism has received much-needed support from an important and powerful neighbor. Iran's better defined stance on Kashmir has strengthened Pakistan's zonal position vis-a-vis India. But many writers have displayed some disappointment over the fact that Iran and Pakistan were not able to move towards a defence agreement. This view tends to relate a military pact between Iran and Pakistan to the latter's troubled relatons with India. Subliminally, Pakistan is sought to be given a deterrent profile against the treat of war with India. Finally, the entire package is premised on Pakistan's aggressive pursuit of a solution to the Kashmir dispute on the basis of plebiscite under the UN resolutions. India's defiance of international opinion, and the reluctance of the big powers in the UN Security Council to revive the issue and move on to the "enforcement" phase, is gradually bringing home Pakistani strategists the steady attrition of the Kashmiri freedom struggle under the jack-boot of the Indian military.

Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif's dash to Saudi Arabia last Friday reveals to obverse side of a possible defence pact aimed against India. Just as India has taken notice of Iran's "jumping into the fray" over the Kashmir dispute, the Arabs across the Gulf from Iran could not have failed to see Pakistan moving towards Iran in the context of Iran-Arab relations. Although President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has sought (words indistinct) with the Arab world, the recent incident on the Abu Musa Island in the Gulf, and the decision of the Gulf Cooperation Council to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice, indicates a continuing Iran-Arab rivalry in the region of Middle East. Iran's stance on the Mideast talks, supported by a number of writers in Pakistan, is against the post-Gulf war policy changes in the states neighboring Israel. Libya's leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has warned against fragmentation of the Arab world into internecine Shia and Sunni states. Iran's international isolation, still considerable even after President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's commendable efforts to moderate Iran's generally aggressive view of the world, arouses fears among its neighbours. Its military linkage with China, itself threatened with another retreat into aggressive isolation, not only worry the Western world and the ASEAN countries, but also the Arabs living across the Gulf from Iran. In this perspective, any Pakistani move to link up militarily with Iran will activate new hectic diplomacy among the Arabs aimed at "balancing" the regional perception of threat by moving closer to India. Since the Arabs in the vicinity of the Gulf are linked defensively to the US and its Western allies, and India is moving closer to the US in both military and political terms, the West may find it easy to impose isolation on Pakistan in the region through a closer Indo-Arab equation.

In the past, Pakistan has marched through the minefield of Iran-Arab relations with commendable and credible neutrality. Iran must acknowledge that Pakistan has consistently supported the Iranian revolution during Tehran's sharp contradictions with the Arabs, and has resisted the Arab pressure to join sides during the Iran-Iraq war at risk of punitive economic sanctions by the Gulf states, where Pakistani workers are employed. Pakistan's status as a country straddling the region lying between South Asia and the Middle East, imposes on it a policy of neutrality. Only this policy will strengthen its position vis-a-vis India, which has failed so far to sway the pro-Pakistan loyalties of the states joined under the umbrella of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization].

Indian Minister's Visit to Moscow Viewed

BK1509100792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Sep 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Indo-Russian Alliance"]

[Text] The outcome of Indian Defence Minister Pawar's just-concluded visit to Russia shows the contrasting relationship India and Pakistan have with their respective major arms suppliers and "allies." This was the first high-level exchange between New Delhi and Moscow after Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis's visit to India in May. The outcome of the Pawar visit has led to the development of a framework for continuing the New Delhi-Moscow axis despite the demise of the Soviet Union, which effectively meant the end of the old politico-strategic intimacy that underlay the Indo-Soviet relationship for over three decades.

Yet one should not read too much into the end of this intimate level of the Moscow-New Delhi relationship. For one thing, the Pawar visit reflects the stability of the New Delhi-Moscow relationship, and the new, more matter-of-fact parameters that seem to have emerged out of this visit suit both states. For India, the main issue is to ensure

the continuance of a Russian commitment within the issue-area of India's defence needs, including the supply of spares for India's large arsenal of Soviet weaponry.

At the same time, freed of politico-military ties, India can respond to American overtures. This is critical for India, because it sees the need to diversify its weapons suppliers given the fact that Russia cannot respond to India's new weapons demands. So the Pawar visit has ensured thast while Russia continues to supply critical military spares, India is free of the political bind that it suffered as a result of its alliance with the former Soviet Union, and therefore can develop new levels of strategic cooperation with the United States.

For Russia, the continuing linkage with India gives it the advantage of a tried and tested ally in South Asia, at a time when it is having to redefine a number of its global relationships. As its military and economic relationships in Eastern Europe and with the other now independent republics of the former Soviet Union are in need of a restructuralisation, cooperation with New Delhi provides stability for Russia's external relations. Additionally, freed of the political constraints of Soviet policy in South Asia, like India, the Russians can develop alternative relations with other states of the region.

While the Indians and the Russians therefore adopt this opportune low profile to their continuting alliance, other states of the region need to keep in mind the fact that the myriad levels that have been established in the New Delhi-Moscow relationship clearly indicate that the two will continue their military and economic cooperation for the foreseeble future. Nor has Soviet disintegration meant the end of the Indo-Soviet Treaty. A revised draft is expected to be signed between India and Russia when Mr Yeltsin visits India in January 1993. The new treaty will certainly differ from the 1971 Indo-Soviet Treaty, but it will reflect the perpetuation of a relationship that is adept at adjusting to new global structures and environments—no matter how drastic the change.

For Pakistan, the Indo-Russian relationship should surely be a lesson in how to identify and maintain reliable allies and alliances. The US-Pakistan relationship, which has historical roots that go back at least as far as the Indo-Soviet relationship—if not farther—stands out as a miserable contrast. Perhaps it is time for Pakistan to adopt a businesslike approach and examine options within its more-immediate regional milieu. The foundations are already in place, but the ruling elites need to take-off their "stars and stripes" blinkers.

1.71 Million Affected by Floods; Losses 'Colossal'

BK1509162892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] In the Punjab over 2,800 villages in 12 districts have been affected due to the current unprecedented floods in the rivers Jhelum and Chenab. The Punjab revenue and relief minister, Mr. Arshad Khan Lodhi, said in Lahore today that 17.83 lakh acres of land and 17.13 lakh persons have been hit by the floods. The Punjab agriculture minister, Chaudhary Mohammad Iqbal, said that more than 16.14 lakh acres of crop land has been fully or partially damaged.

In the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province], latest reports say that death toll in Hazara has further risen to 336 due to recent rains. Most of the dead bodies are still feared to be trapped under heavy landslides in the area. Twenty-five people missing as a result of recent devastating rains were airlifted by helicopter from (Kaivan) valley and brought to Abbottabad this morning. Helicopters were also shuttling between Abbottabad and different parts of Hazara Division to provide food and essential articles to the marooned people.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the government is sustaining all possible resources to overcome the current crisis and provide all relief and succor to those who have suffered from the floods. Addressing various gatherings in the worst-affected mountainous areas of Abbottabad and Mansehra districts today, he said the devastation caused by current floods and rains in various parts of the country was colossal. However, the nation will have to quickly recover, build, and stand on its feet to resume its march on the road to progress and prosperity. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the task to rebuild the economy and provide relief to affected people was gigantic, which could not be done by the government alone; it has to be a collective effort.